

STREET SHEET

SHEET

#71

May 9, 1990

Tuesday

You pay: 25¢

"Sleep is pain's easiest salve, and doth fulfill

All offices of death, except to kill."

--John Donne, "The Storm: to Mr. Christopher Brooke,"
Letters to Several Personages (1651)

ORANGE COUNTY POLICE BOSS WANTS MALL WITHOUT BENCHES, GRASS BASSETT CALLS 'OPEN PUBLIC SPACES' HAVEN FOR 'CRIMINAL ABUSE'

Street people are front page news in the May 8th *Santa Cruz Urinal* (or *Sentinel*, as it styles itself). Summoning the familiar spectacle of goblin destroyers of downtown businesses, "not the truly homeless," the long-time trollbashing tabloid once more blares that the boogeyman is here and easy to recognize. It's that old guy with the beard, that young kid with the spiked hairdo, the pothead with long hair, those grungy-looking women in the park: all that's evil and unkempt in our fair city.

Clues to the current police department policy to drive the homeless and those demonstrating against the sleeping ban out of Santa Cruz can be found in the attitudes and public statements of police chief Jack Bassett (*Sentinel*, 5/8/90). Bassett's policy of stealing homeless survival gear and jailing them for sleeping was a tactic, the "lock-em-up" lawman apparently used freely in his previous work in southern California.

Such tactics may go over in Disneyland. But here, much of Santa Cruz's business stems from a tourist trade that is drawn to the gypsy-hippie-countercultural reputation of the town. And another large chunk comes from the University. Some anxious merchants, understandably shaken by a postquake drop in sales, are ready to follow Bassett's lead and sacrifice the town's ecology, and the constitutional rights of its poorer citizens to reassure and please "prospective tenants." This would be a serious mistake.

The homeless and street community of Santa Cruz wants to help rebuild the town. We propose:

1. Involve the homeless and the street community in on-going discussion and negotiations.
2. Acknowledge and deal with the lack of locker space, toilet facilities, and camping area for the homeless downtown. Establish a task force to investigate this problem, involving all segments of the community. Deal with basic human necessities first.
3. Stop wasting police funds on harassment camping busts and petty victimless drug "crimes"--rechannel the funding to a campground/switchboard/laundromat located away from the downtown that would remove the mall as a focus for many.
4. Stop using police power as a substitute for human power: set up a civilian police review-and-policy board and a mediating committee to deal with ongoing problems.
5. Stop scapegoating homeless and street people and use their skills, intelligence, and vision join the effort to remake the downtown into an area we and our children can enjoy, an area for everyone--not just those with money

HENNIG'S HOMELESS HIT SQUAD STRIKES TWICE IN FOUR HOURS
NEW ATTACK ISSUES NINE TICKETS, TAKES TWO HOMELESS TABLES

SCPD sleepbusters roused sleeping demonstrators at the Homeless Table early this morning and doled out nine tickets ending a week-long lull in homeless harassment at the vigil table outside the post office. Mild police behavior and court-sponsored mediation efforts (see following story) had prompted some optimists to conclude that the police department was responding sensibly and humanely to the end of the Interfaith Satellite Shelter program April 30th. Since then, dozens of homeless people previously in the program have found themselves on the streets without shelter and without legal protection after 11 p.m.

What followed the nine "Sleeping" tickets, however, was an unexpected crescendo of police repression, which some claimed was part of a "clean-up campaign" co-ordinated with ongoing "Visionquest Santa Cruz" hearings on the "street people problem." Around 8 a.m., when seven of the nine ticketed some hours before were over at the courthouse getting court dates for earlier "camping" tickets, the second wave hit. Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig and a squad of 3 uniformed thieves confronted two newcomers, Teddybear Tim and Jingles Jason.

Better known in recent days for his afternoon interrogations of teenagers across from the Transit Center, Hennig has been gaining notoriety for issuing dog-on-the-mall and possession-of-tobacco citations to punks, minors, and street people at the south end of the mall. This morning, however, Hennig was in search of his traditional prey: the homeless demonstrators.

Teddybear and Jason told the city-funded geargrabbers that they were watching the table while the old-timers were at court getting arraignment dates. "Want a ticket for Public Nuisance?" threatened the Hobohunter. Jason: "no." "Are you gonna leave?" continued Santa Cruz's own Clint Eastwood. "Can I tell the others at the courthouse to come and pick up their stuff." "No," concluded Hennig, thus revealing his purpose was not to "clean up" the area, but to hurt and harass those whose only possessions were at the Table. As the two dispersed on Hennig's order, the sour-faced sergeant and his crew hauled off all the homeless blankets and backpacks as well as Homeless Table #9 and its political literature and petitions. Why?--when the cops had spent some time snapping photos of the area. Why not!--when D.A.s, judges, city councilpeople, and police collude to substitute gun-and-badge for Constitution.

Several hours later when those whose clean clothing and sleeping bags had been ripped off were at the police station seeking to make a formal complaint, Hennig returned to the Table area, seized more gear and removed Homeless Table #10 (a small cardboard box) from Stormin' Norman.

Hennig's personal message to the homeless seemed to be: "See, you have no constitutional rights. I can take what I want, when I want, from whom I want--and there isn't a damn thing you can do about it." Hennig's immediate superior, Lt. Dunbaugh declined to speak with the men trying to file complaints. Their stolen possessions join that of others seized in earlier raids Jan 25, April 7, and April 17, still gathering dust in police lockup.

(The following story was composed before the Late Flash seizure of the Homeless Table reached out pressroom.)

TICKETING SLOWS AS WORD OF JULY 4TH RALLY SPREADS

COPS AWAIT COURT ORDER TO RELEASE BEDROLLS AND BACKPACKS

Could sunny May days be bringing warmer hearts to the nightly Sleepslasher squads? Has the well-publicized end of the drop-in Satellite Shelter program (Channel 8, May 2 & 3) made the "gag the gabbers" Gang of 7 (City Council) a bit nervous about their infamous no-sleep-for-the-homeless law? Has the increasing backlog of Sleepcrime trials (15 held over from May 4 to May 10 in Kelly's Courtroom C) increased the reluctance of the blueclad slumberburglars to set in motion yet more meaningless court appearances? Or has word of California Homeless Rights Week (July 1-8) when the 1st Pacific coast Convention of the Homeless is slated to gather to decriminalize homelessness, provoked a pause in the crazy gear-grabbing capers of the SCPD?

For whatever reason, police ticketing and, to some extent, harassment has slowed at the 5 1/2-month long Homeless Table vigil. The lull follows a weekend (April 29-May 1) of daily threats to issue new "Public Nuisance" misdemeanor tickets, which Officer "Let Me At 'em" Lunnen capped off by first threatening to break a man's leg and then hogtying throwing him in the back of a squadcar on top of two other prisoners in an arrest for public intoxication.¹

On May 5, Jabberwocky Jay Green surrendered to gendarmes to begin serving a weekend's prison sentence for sleeping-without-a-house, given him by Commission "Whiff 'o Hope" Watts in lieu of unserved community service.² Still staffing the table, Boston Bob noted an apparent ceasefire in the Sleep War. Quite a change from an April morning three weeks before, when Officer "Backlash" Baker, already well-known for his all-night pursuit, triple ticketing and arrest of longtime local Stormin' Norman, struck again. On the first of 5 raids within 12 hours that April 17th, Backlash ticketed 8 sleepers around midnight. When asked by Rhodent where to sleep, Backlash retorted, "Go find a hole and crawl into it."

1 Angry with the dancing and drinking at the table, Lunnen charged veteran "Let Me Be" Lee with drunk in public and numerous add-on charges, witnesses claimed, because Lee insisted on securing his bicycle and guitar before leaving the scene.

2 Watts earned his sobriquet by his regular practice of dismissing sleepcrime tickets early on, if the officer is not promptly in court, by featherlight sentences to the Kitchenquest Criminals, and by his humane conversion of 30+ hours of uncompleted "community service" time to 2 days of jail.

Watts recently transferred of another case of Jabberwocky Jay's to Muni Court for new arraignment. In that case Jay demanded a jury trial because he had been cited for "misdemeanor" sleeping (6.36.050) punishable by a maximum of 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine, and Watts declared he had a right to one and ordered him rearraigned. In all previous cases, lie-a-beds charged with 6.36.050 have had the charges reduced to an infraction by the D.A. to avoid the time, expense, and embarrassment; the same will probably happen to Jay.

Files of homeless survival gear are still under police lock and key as "evidence" in Public Nuisance raids made Jan. 25, April 7, and April 17. "Pretty Bizarre," the Misdemeanor Queen³, has declined to order the release of the sleeping bags, clean clothes, and personal work tools being held. Kangaroo Courtmaster⁴ Kelly has all but written the prosecution's scenario in the Jan. 25 case, upholding the constitutionality of the far-fetched "Public Nuisance" law. Kangaroo has also declined to call a halt to renegade blanketbusting, and refused to order the release of the lonely 400 lb. Homeless Table (#7) and its literature, still in the jug at presstime.

Kangaroo's proposed deal to return clothing and sleeping gear to the homeless demonstrators on condition "it not reappear at the Table" was rejected by Paddywagon Pete and Jabberwocky Jay, who suggested there was no other safe and convenient place to store it. The 21 new lockers that have appeared behind the River St. mini-Shelter are not yet operational and will be reserved for those 15 still in the summer's scaled-down Satellite Shelter program, according to program director, Andrew Morin. Keystone Karen, culinary caretaker of A Free Meal, the successor to Calamity's Cupboard, said that an investigator from Kelly's court had asked about installing lockers at the nightly meal for use by folks without shelter.

Meanwhile back at the cop shop, Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig was confronted with an agreement between the public defender's office and the district attorney to let photos serve in place of the actual items seized. Retorted Hennig, "I can't release that stuff. It smells! That's part of our case that it's a public nuisance. Get a court order."

3 Known to the public as Patty Bazar, D.A. Supervisor for Misdemeanors. Repeated visits to her office have failed to move her to act on the extravagant demands by homeless demonstrators that they be allowed to wear clothing during the day and cover themselves with blankets at night.

4 Muni Court Judge Tom Kelly has a reputation as a fair-to-good trial judge, who considers 1st amendment claims carefully before dismissing them. He is hostile to defendants who refuse probation (as most Sleeping Ban and Kitchenquest protestors say they will do), often sentencing them to weeks of jailtime.



Coming Up in Street Shit Sheet #72: (This issue was thrown together in a hurry in time for tonight's Civic Auditorium City Council meeting on Downtown Redevelopment.) Next issue we hope to return to our regular features: Gobs of clippings, updates on the 4th of July Homeless Convention, the Zanotto's report, Drug Wars Against the Homeless, forgotten citizen power: Jury Nullification, and anything else that fits.

Your cost: 25c

"To sleep! To sleep! The long bright day is done,
And darkness rises from the fallen sun.
To sleep! To sleep!

Whate'er thy joys, they vanish with the day;
What'er thy griefs, in sleep they fade away."

--Tennyson, *The Foresters*, Act i, sc 3, *Song*.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND SLEEP-IN MAINTAINS NUMBERS DESPITE RAIN-OUT YEAR'S LARGEST PROTEST SLUMBER LEFT UNMOLESTED BY POLICE

An organized protest against the recent step-up in police abuse against the Santa Cruz homeless May 26-27 cascaded into a second night of defiant camping Sunday as driving rains continued to pelt the city. Initially planned as a preliminary build-up to the First Homeless Congress/California Homeless Rights Week (July 1-8), the weekend demonstration against the city's ancient 11 PM- 8:30 AM Sleeping Ban became more urgent to locals in recent days for additional reasons [see following story].

Undaunted by the rainstorm throughout Saturday, demonstrators dragged their bags and blankets onto the covered entrance area to the main post office, casting an occasional glance at the newly erected and rain-soaked Homeless Table #14. By nightfall, extensive leafleting had brought new faces from as far afield as Berkeley. A reporter from the UCB anarchist newspaper *Slingshot* was just one of several out-of-towners to lay down bag and body with beleaguered locals. An unexpectedly tuneful trio of guitarists in tiedye duds serenaded clumps of sleepy spectators with their own rendition of "Give Sleep a Chance."

Around 1 a.m., Bathrobespierre Robert and Gingersnap George, veteran chefs from the SWAP II (Soup Without A Permit) outlaw meals at the Town Clock, arrived with 10 gallons of hot tastu homemade vegie-rice soup to fortify thinly-insulated campers against the cold and the wet. Over 30 sleepers remained through the night, arrayed along the front wall of the post office.

Strangest of all, roving Sleepslayer squads, perhaps discouraged by the torrential rains and the large number of participants, declined to raid the encampment with their usual flurry of abusive wake-ups, tickets, and arrests. Officer Kern made a brief discrete appearance, reportedly seeking info on who stabbed Houndlover Helen L. (released from Dominican Hospital 5/27). The next day--on Sunday--Sgt. "Don't Fuck With Me" St. Onge made a brief surly appearance, demanding cleaner quarters.

But all in all police surveillance and harassment were minimal for the 4th largest Sleep-Out against the Sleeping Ban. (Larger were two Grateful Dead/Rainbow Family-swollen demonstrations last November and a UCSC Mega Sleep-in in February of 1989, all at the Town Clock.) Police discretion, sustained spirits (and continuing rain) moved folks to continue the criminal sleep-out for another night. Teddybear Tom reported another peaceful if raucous night at the post office, with postal employees politely requesting folks to vacate around opening time. Approached as human beings rather than homeless debris, the demonstrators complied willingly, leaving even Bathrobespierre to issue grudging words of praise to police for the first occasion on which they'd let a mass sleep-in downtown end without arrests.

LATE FLASH:

MADDOG MULLIGAN MOVES TO JAIL SLEEPERS; 10 DAYS FOR BOSTON BOB!

Acting speedily to dispose of 18 camping trials in the absence of sidewalk shyster Grinning Ray Grueneich, acting Muni judge "Maddog" Mulligan, swiftly found the overwhelming majority guilty. Paddywagon Pete, Gemstone Jeannie, Midnight Mike, and Stormin' Norman were quickly disposed of as Mulligan refused requests for a continuance. The crime: falling into slumber within city limits without the appropriate middle-class trappings. The penalty: 10 days in jail for "Boston Bob" Hillman for 4 "camping" tickets as part of the 6 1/2 month vigil at the post office against the city's Sleeping Ban. Bob refused to do court-directed "labor," declined to pay a ransom, and expressed no interest in further bureaucratic attorney-judge discussions. As Paddywagon Pete put it, "It is not a crime to sleep." More sleepers including Pete are expected to join Bob behind bars as more nights produce more criminals.

NEW ASSAULTS ON SLEEPING BAN VIGIL FOLLOW CITY HALL ARREST
CITY ESCALATES WAR ON HOMELESS DEMONSTRATORS AT POST OFFICE

In the past few weeks, local courts and City Council tolerance toward six months of official police ticket-and trash tactics at the Homeless Table prompted oldtimers there to increasing anger. Extensive personal property (blankets, clothing, birth certificates, private correspondence) ostensibly held as "evidence" of earlier "Public Nuisance" crimes has been gathering dust in police storage--some of it seized as early as January--with no relief from the courts. Police higher-ups apparently took this silence for sanction last week and launched into a new round of police outrages.

On Tuesday May 22, Gangmaster' Wormhoudt instigated the arrest of local activist Bath-robepierre Robert at her Gang of 7 meeting after the long-winded activist tried to complete a speech past the 3 minutes mandated by her new Gag rule. In the wake of this blow, her armed Sleepbusters apparently began feeling their oats and struck on the street just eight hours later.

On two successive nights (May 23rd and May 24th), armed city wolf packs then made off with first Tables #12 and then #13, claiming they were enforcing the nineteenth century Public Nuisance law, but declining to issue any tickets.² Past such "Nuisance" seizures had specifically exempted the taking of political tables and literature, for even in contemptuous consciousness of the downtown high command, these items were vaguely connected with such unpleasant realities as "freedom of speech" and "freedom of assembly." No more, it seems! The raid against Table #13 took only the table and its literature, ignoring other items such as clothing that might had been declared "nuisanceware" in the past.

The "toughness against trolls" expeditions had additional rough edges. The May 22nd raid, coming on the heels of a torrential rainstorm, was preceded by a 4:30 a.m. roust of sleepers in the eaves of the post office. Homeless shelterseekers were ordered away in the dark and the drizzle. After the

1 Her official title is "Mayor Wormhoudt" though the renegade "Progressive," a one-time West Side community activist, has never actually been elected to that post, only to the Gang of 7 (City Council). There the mayorship, like other cherished prizes such as the right to speak without being arrested, is batted about from favorite to favorite in mutual self-congratulation. In recent months Wormhoudt has assumed the mantle of "peacemaker" but refuses to make peace with homeless activists to discuss the major issue of ticketing sleepers downtown.

2 Continuing a harassment practice they used April 17 and May 8 to seize homeless property and liberties when they took Tables 10, 11, and 12 and much else as well.

sleepfogged group had resettled some 30 or 40 feet away and tried to finish the night unmolested, police returned several hours later to declare Table #12 "abandoned."

Protesting, Jabberwocky Jay and Moonrise Mike stepped forward to take responsibility for the community property, but Bassett's Bulldogs refused to acknowledge them and hooked up the hapless Table to a tow chain. "Come and claim it!" quipped the merry motorized nightcrawlers as they dragged off the 900+lb. Table #12 and the adjacent desk, along with the usual haul of homeless clothing and possessions.

On the following night near dawn, the blue-bellied banditos returned with a new approach. Confronted with a protective cluster of sleepers near Table #13, they launched into an afterhours game of "ticket-and-take." After rewarding the groggy vigilers with half a dozen sleeping tickets, Officer "Lock-em-Up" Lunnen and others declared the new Table with its "We're Back!" sign a Public Nuisance.

Though Jabberwocky and Moonrise again rose to claim the wayward piece of furniture as their own community property, the pistolpacking pillowpinchers announced yet another change in the rules and hauled away the table anyway as "abandoned" and "evidence of a public nuisance." Some vigilers denounced the new police ruleshift as somehow "unfair" not to mention legally incomprehensible, but others just shook their heads in awe at the magnitude of the audacity of those lovable lawmen and wondered whether their creative campaign to drive the demonstrators crazy would fill the jails or the psych wards first.

Why the crackdown? Perhaps Bassett's bullyboys are just getting ready to "sterilize the streets" for the benefit of tourists during the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend. Or are they trying to score a few extra points with rednecks and paranoids among the voters for the upcoming June 5 primary?

H.U.F.F. POWWOW CALLS FOR DAILY CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS TO SUPPLEMENT UPCOMING MASS LAW SUIT

At a subsequent H.U.F.F. meeting Sunday, the two tough-but-tired Tablesitters dismissed subsequent criticism by roaming activist Loudmouth Leith Austin that they had been insufficiently eager in claiming 6-months-jail/\$1000 fine Public Nuisance tickets

3 *Though H.U.F.F. has made no official endorsements for the upcoming election, Bathrobespierre Robert's handy Smash-the-Sleepbusters Guidebook recommends voting for challenger Ed Frey against long-time activistbasher Art Danner, the current D.A. Danner spent tens of thousands running after "soup criminals" last year. This year, his department is running down free speech advocates at City Council (3 jury trials planned against Bathrobespierre and Loudmouth Leith Austin).*

Danner is also seeking jail for Kitchenquest Santa Cruz demonstrators (whose sit-ins ultimately reestablished the nightly meal back of the River St. mini-shelter). His office wrote the Homeless Hit List back in March that resulted in illegal arrests of sleepers (which Danner lied about in a KSCO debate with Frey 5/23). Finally, he continues to favor separating homeless from their clothing and bedding (held as "evidence" for over 4 months) in the infamous Public Nuisance cases. Send this Primitive Politician out to pasture. Vote ED FREY FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

that city gunmen had brandished. Loudmouth expressed hope that recent lawyer interest in reclaiming homeless bedding seized and locked away in raid after raid over the last four months would put a legal damper on the deprivations of Sgt. Hennig's Hobohunters. (Hennig has shown unusual devotion in his determination to reduce independent homeless activists to shivering penitents, who will barter self-respect and principle to get their possessions returned and be left alone. So far with little success.)

Back at the courts, proceedings against Jabberwocky Jay and Linda the Lark for their January 26 "crime" of tending a public information table (Homeless Table #4) continued to crawl at a snail's pace with yet another hearing slated for June 6th. After stringing out things until the last possible moment, the D.A.'s office also announced new Public Nuisance actions against Midnight Mike Widdle, Paddywagon Pete Pascoe, and Jabberwocky Jay. On a parallel track, a defense team of attorneys headed by Moxie Margaret Marr quietly circulated the news that it was about file a civil Writ in Superior Court demanding return of the stolen property and an injunction against future seizures.

This pleased but did not satisfy the grumbling Bathrobespierre Robert who muttered it was about time that policeshy shysters were finally nerving themselves up to reclaim seized merchandise for the victimized activists. Warning Homeless Tabluhteers still looking for stolen laundry, Bathrobespierre urged homeless victims not to place much hopes in the decisions of judicial overseers. Better to mount a parallel series of legal claims against the city day after day, each day, to force open the jaws of the downtown juggernaut. Individuals could file daily claims for items seized in each harassment incident that would eventually end up in small-claims court where police officers at last could be called on to publicly defend their bizarre bag-stealing behavior.

Such an approach had already prompted swift release of homeless booty lifted by roaming Santa Barbara anti-sleep patrols in early May. (Recent judicial rights-wrecking by a Superior Court there has effectively demolished a 1986 compromise with the city. That agreement, reached after months of stormy protest and a nationwide "come to Santa Barbara/go to sleep/go to jail" campaign, allowed "sleeping but not camping." Activists are in their second month of a nightly encampment on the steps of their city hall to demand a new ordinance be written.)

Others, weary of endless "sleep trials," seizures, and gratuitous bullying by armed thugs, express no confidence in attorneys or lawsuits. Closer to the street and angrier at the new crackdown, these shadowy grumblers wondered what response short of chaining themselves to the Table or firebombing police cars might stop the latest extralegal blueshirt campaign to crush the 32-week Homeless Vigil.

Next Issue: A report on Linda the Lark's Uptown Homeless Table near the Metro, more ravings from the court of Maddog Mulligan, statewide update on the upcoming First Homeless Congress, and endless clippings, local poetry, and your letters (when they arrive!).

Apologies to Marvelous Mark and other homeless poets and proseslingers who submitted work yet to be published: keep thumbing through the pages of future issues. Keep writing.

50c: pay up,
or borrow and return.

Juggernaut George S.
from Sonoma visits
Santa Cruz and plots
decriminalizing sleep!

"Oh, lightly, lightly tread!
A holy thing is sleep,
On the worn spirit shed,
And eyes that wake to weep."
---Felicia Dorothea Hemans, *The Sleeper*



Roadside Rodent in
his best duds for the
memorial Weekend Sleeper



IT'S ELECTION DAY! VOTE NO! ON PROPOSITION 15!
VOTE YES! ON E D F R E Y FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

Inside:

- p. 1. Sgt. Hennig's Mall-mauling Continues
Checkmate Raner out of the slammer
- p. 3. The *Street Shit Sheet* covers the May 31st demo
- p. 5. Millennial Mark says his piece
- p. 6. PRELIMINARY PRESS RELEASE FOR 4TH OF JULY DEMO
- p. 9. Norse to City on A Hill on the Gog Rule; the May 31st demands.
- p. 10. Marinated Mory to the Gong of 7. ...cont. below...

HENNIG RESUMES HARASSMENT OPERATIONS NEAR BOTH HOMELESS TABLES

FELONY "FLAG WAVING" AGAINST "CHECKMATE" RANER DROPPED

Four days after a crowd of fifty protesters demanded Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig be suspended and retrained for excessive force against "Morpheus" Mike Hobson, the ticketslinging sergeant was back on the beat, resuming his self-appointed role as Grand Inquisitor and Bouncer of the Mall.

On Monday June 4th before noon, Hennig reportedly approached homeless activist "Roadside" Rodent near the bicycle rack next to the post office. Seeing Rodent's leather jacket suspiciously draped over one of the railings, the bum-busting lawman whipped out his citation book and nailed the criminal then and there. The charge: "abusing a public structure." Hennig's incisive analysis: "This is a bike rack, not a goddamned coat rack!" Justice goose-steps on!

Some hours later near Linda the Lark's Uptown Homeless Table, the Hobohunter with backup from TransientTrasher Central continued to keep the red brick planters safe from human sitters

- p.11. Gingersnap George on Vision Santa Cruz
- p.12. Local services; Rubbab Brian on Camping Ban Defenses!

1 Details of the demands of the May 31st March Against Police Brutality and corrections to the libelous smears of the Santa Cruz Urinal (aka the Sentinel) can be found in the flyer "What Really Happened May 31st" available at Homeless Table #14 outside the Main post office, or across from the Metro transit center next to the infamous Union Grove Music "Forbidden Fence" on Pacific Ave. See also the Five-Point Petition presented (without effect) to the Police Dept., and "Hold the Police Accountable: Set up a Civilian Review Board!" flyer distributed May 31st and still available!

Robespierre Robert and Morpheus Mike--activist assaulted by Hennig--are tentatively scheduled to speak about the Hennig assault-and-battery at 6:30 p.m. June 17 on the public affairs radio show Talkabout on KZSC-FM.

Council challenged to sleep outdoors

By Donald Murphy
News-Press Staff Writer

City Council members were challenged Tuesday to sleep on the sidewalk outside City Hall to learn what it's like to be without shelter in Santa Barbara.

The invitation was first issued by Michael Wilson, representing the Homeless Coalition. He then told the council that a demonstration by homeless people from around the state is planned for Santa Cruz on the Fourth of July, and that Santa Barbara may face a similar protest if treatment of the homeless here doesn't improve.

About 20 homeless men and women, and a handful of people who work with the homeless, attended the beginning of the council session. They asked the council to change the language of the so-called "no camping" ordinance, and to tell them where in the city homeless people can legally sleep.

In November, Superior Court Judge Bruce Dodds ruled that the word "camping" in the city's ordinance that targets sleeping outside means "living temporarily in the outdoors."

Since then, the city has maintained that the judge's ruling used a broader definition of camping than the council intended when it



Several people protest the city's "no camping" policy outside City Hall Tuesday.

Bob Porco/News-Press

passed the ordinance in 1986.

Daniel Wallace, city attorney, said Tuesday police enforcement of the ordinance had not changed after Dodds' ruling.

In a memorandum addressed to Police Chief Richard Breza, Wallace wrote on March 30 that "no change in city policy or practices has been occasioned by the decision rendered by Judge Dodds."

Mayor Sheila Lodge also said the city has not changed its enforcement policies as a result of

the court decision.

Dennis Flanagan, an attorney who works with the Legal Defense Center, said the city cannot continue to ignore the court decision, and the council should tell homeless people where they can sleep. He also urged the council to make adjustments in the law for those who cannot find shelter.

The Legal Defense Center, arguing that the court decision means it is now a crime to be homeless in Santa Barbara, has previously

said it would sue the city by May 1 if the ordinance wasn't modified.

David Carter told council members "I'm homeless ... but that should not be a crime." He asked them to create jobs.

Several speakers mentioned that the closing of the National Guard Armory at night, as of March 31, combined with Judge Dodds' ruling, meant that homeless people no longer know where they can sleep without being arrested.

Santa Barbara Homeless to their City Council gang!

How about it, Mardi?

More Santa Barbara News, p. 10.

with stiff warnings, "take a seat; meet the paddywagon!"² Hennig was spotted happily enforcing yet another Drug Prohibition warrant on a shabbily dressed man in front of the Metro shortly thereafter. Soon after his squad car pulled out with its human booty, children and adults alike returned to linger at the now-infamous Union Grove Music fence in ignorant or mischevous disregard for the new "privatize the mall" mania and the latest "not in my neighborhood" priorities of certain mall merchants and their armed guardians.

And back across the river, "Checkmate" John Raner was finally released from jail on his own recognizance Monday. Raner's return to notoriety followed a year and a half absence from the homeless scene. He was one of dozens ticketed or arrested by SCPD Sleepbusters in early October of 1988 at the end of the 10-day "Do Drop Inn" encampment in back of the River St. mini-Shelter. The first S.C. Tent City was leveled after city officials pressured River St. mini-Shelter overlord Paul Brindel into filing trespass complaints against the scofflaw sleepers.

Rainer spent this last weekend in the slammer, but then found his felony "assault and battery" arrest (for standing in front of a paddywagon while holding aloft a full-size American flag) thrown out because Checkmate was denied access to the courts beyond 72 hours. He still faces the ever-present Sleeping tickets and warrants, but is no longer facing "assault with a deadly weapon [the flag!] fabrications."

² A translation of the meaning rather the actual words used by our favorite Malltroopers.

POLICE ARREST 5 IN MAY 31ST MARCH AGAINST HENNIG MISCONDUCT
DEMANDS IGNORED, SPOKESPEOPLE ARRESTED, TOP COP SHUTS DOOR

After weeks of petty sniping, citations, and arrests of youths, deadheads, and homeless activists from one end of the mall to the other, locals witnessed the final straw last Thursday (May 30th). Brutalized and arrested for "trespass" for leaning against the Union Grove Music parking lot fence, Morpheus Mike Hobson found himself slammed against the ground, lifted by hair and handcuffs, thrown against the squad car, and finally tossed into the car itself by the apparently out-of-control Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig.

Witnesses flocked to the police station and, after the intervention of attorney Moxie Margaret Marr, were allowed to file complaints. The next day at 1 p.m., over fifty people gathered at Homeless Table #14 outside the main post office to begin a protest march. The marchers first surrounded a police surveillance car taking photographs parked across the street, then moved up the mall. Some blocks later, they were intercepted by police officials demanding they apply for a permit. Since the demonstration was relatively small, *did* not block traffic, and completely non-violent, protesters declined to dicker over obvious First Amendment rights and proceeded (no previous homeless demonstrations have ever applied for permits).

Followed up the street by several motorcycle cops, three foot patrol officers, several police chiefs, and several squad cars, the well-protected protest observed well-dressed middle-class citizens jaywalking and police declining to ticket them. When Moonrise Mike Careirro crossed against the "Don't Walk" sign at Laurel and Pacific, however, he was ticketed and then handcuffed and arrested, on refusing to sign the ticket.

When a paddywagon was called to carry off the dangerous prisoner, Checkmate John and others moved to non-violently block the paddywagon from leaving. Like another unarmed youth, who just over a year ago confronted a column of Chinese tanks in Beijing, Checkmate's flag-in-hand stance in front of the vehicle was a call for dialogue and democracy against the selective harassment of disfavored groups.

Moonrise himself was reportedly roughed up by three sheriff's deputies later that afternoon in a holding cell where he was isolated prior to booking after the demonstration. The deputies, according to a worried Linda the Lark, listening from an adjacent cell, had demanded Moonrise sweep up the jailcell and the feisty prisoner refused.

Linda herself faces more courtroom cakewalking for "interfering with an officer" and "blocking the sidewalk." Some witnesses saw her twice shoved and finally thrown to the ground by baton-wielding police near the scene of Checkmate's arrest. Another jaywalker arrested by the police in the course of the demonstration--Still-Smilin' Steve--overheard police decide to "get Linda Edwards out of the demonstration."³ One pundit has speculated that cautious authorities seized, cited, cuffed, and jailed Linda either to forestall complaints from her or to remove her as an organizer from the scene.

³ Steve was unsure of the exact words, but said the meaning was unmistakable.

Subsequently, such speculation became more credible. The demonstration moved to the police department where police chieftains invited spokespeople in to discuss their demands, and then cited and arrested them! Top cop Jack Bassett refused to meet the marchers (presumably saving his wisdom for an upcoming attack on street people before the Chamber of Commerce, [June 11, 7:30 a.m., Holiday Inn]). "Slyshoes" Sandra Loranger, Bathrobespierre Robert Norse, Youthsaver Yahsayweh, and Loudmouth Leith Austin put forward petitions asking, among other things, that Sgt. Hennig be suspended for two weeks and given non-violence training.

In a dazzling display of bad faith, Deputy Chief "Doublecross" Dunbaugh then dismissed the demands and presented the four with two citations apiece for "organizing" and "participating" in a protest without a permit. Loudmouth and Youthsaver refused to sign and were jailed. Lurking in the shadows from the D.A.'s office was Misdemeanor Queen "Pretty Bizarre," whose appearance on the scene together with Doublecross's strange "come negotiate and get arrested" coup, led some to suggest that she--along with the ever-present cop videocamera man--was there to help police mount a new assault on the first amendment rights of homeless demonstrators.

Newspaper coverage the next day by the local trollbusting tabloid, the Santa Cruz Urinal (or by its more pompous formal title, the Santa Cruz Sentinel) dismissed the marchers as "Deadhead fans," and "espousers of various causes." Morpheus Mike suggested he was considering a libel suit for the paper's claim that "drug salesmen" were arrested at the march. (3 were arrested several minutes before the march in another part of town in yet another city-funded undercover operation against psychedelic street sellers). The Urinal continued its unbroken tradition of quoting bigoted police patriarchs at length, while ignoring the real issues behind the march.

Morpheus Mike--due in court soon on charges of "trespass" at the Forbidden Fence and "resisting arrest" the day before the march--may go to jail today for falling asleep after 11 p.m. without a house. His term in the lockup may surpass that of "Boston Bob"--released yesterday after 5 days behind bars for "camping" tickets.

Not wishing to enter the local dungeons without a parting bow, Morpheus yesterday presented the City Clerk with the first of what may be dozens of claims demanding return of police-held bags, blankets, and homeless possessions. The loot was hauled off during winter raids as "evidence" of camping, as "abandoned," and more recently to bolster misdemeanor "Public Nuisance" charges still pending against Jabberwocky Jay, Linda the Lark, and Paddywagon Pete. Defense attempts to uncover incriminating prosecution records detailing discriminatory enforcement (Patty Bazar's "Homeless Hit List") were held at bay as Jay and Linda's Jan 26 "Public Nuisance" case was again postponed--this time to June 14, 1:30 P.M., Dept. E.

5 Patty Bazar continues to wow 'em in the courtroom corridors with her patriotic refusal to return homeless sleeping bags, in cases that are now nearly five months old. Whether she's simply playing robocop for "Drumhead" Art Danner, head of the D.A.'s office, or has decided on her own to extend a helping hand to official trollbusting and homeless censorship is still unknown at press time.

And back in jail again for continued criminal snoring, "Judge-me-Not" Joe Parker (formerly "Shoeless Joe") was reportedly catching forty winks at a cost of \$200+/day to indulgent taxpayers, who continue to tolerate the Santa Cruz Gang of 7 (City Council)'s sleepsmashing statute.

Santa Cruz Sentinel — Friday, May 11, 1990—A-9

Sacramento has new street sheet

McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — Sacramento's newest newspaper, "Hard Times", is by and for Sacramento's homeless and those who try and help them.

The first edition of 2,000 copies was distributed Monday at the shelters, parks, government offices that provide services to the homeless and at hangouts such as the K Street Mall and the City Plaza across I Street from City Hall.

"Hard Times" is a package of news, poet-

ry, art and a resource guide that editor Deric Rothe said will be a monthly attempt "to provide a voice for the homeless community and to try and improve their quality of life"

Rothe, a 33-year-old construction worker with a degree in journalism, emphasized this week that the newspaper is not just for the homeless.

"It's also for those sympathetic to the cause so that they can be aware of what is going on," he said.

The paper is provided free to the home-

less and sold to the rest of the public for 50 cents a copy.

Rothe said he pasted up the first edition with copy produced on his home computer and that the Galt Herald printed the run for less than \$300 raised from contributions.

Most of the material is written by members of the homeless community and boxes in which they can place their contributions have been placed at Loaves and Fishes, 12th and North C; the Union Gospel Mission, 400 Bannon St. and at the South Area Emergency Housing Center, 4516 Parker Ave.

"I've been interested in helping but I didn't know what I could do until a couple of months ago," Rothe said of his decision to launch the newspaper.

"We want to expand our (resource) guide section to include services for the mentally handicapped," he said. "Hard Times is for people who are going through hard times, and not just the homeless."

The newspaper's debut came at a time when some of Sacramento's homeless, estimated by their advocates to number between 5,000 and 7,000, are becoming more forceful in their demands.

*Street Sheets Everywhere!
...but only one Street Shit Sheet!*

ANOTHER VIEW FROM THE SHELTER by Millenial Mark

(Mark is an occasional visitor to the Homeless Table and an observer of the Santa Cruz scene.)

Indians lived for centuries in California in tule huts and slept out under the trees and by the streams. California's environment fared well during that time. Pioneers in this land slept out under the stars, in the mountains, and in the woods.

Abraham Lincoln grew up, gaining his education by candlelight, in a log cabin...in the woods. Johnny "Appleseed" walked across this country, planting apple trees as he went, living outside, preferring nature to more "civilized" shelter. John Muir shared his love of nature with his friend Theodore Roosevelt--both conservationists, *par excellence* and well-known for their love of the out-of-doors.

These good men would be rolling over in their graves along with countless others to hear that in this country, "America the Beautiful," home of the free, land of the Brave, strange laws have been made and passed by the well-meaning, as well as the thoughtless. These legislators have made it against the law not only to walk from one place to another, but also a crime to sleep outside without a permit, or permission, or a "fee." In Santa Cruz, as well as in many other cities, it is illegal to sleep at all--with no exceptions being made for an individual's need or situation.

Our forefathers would be appalled, as should we be, that this is so in 1990.

I do not feel that it is wrong to follow the example of the Indians and our pioneer ancestors and other lovers of nature everywhere. Their lesson is to live as I do, without house or home, without automobile or motorcycle or bicycle (whose manufacture or use destroys or pollutes the environment).

Personally, though I have received tickets and warnings, both for walking across this nation and for "camping illegally," I feel our environment would certainly suffer less if millions more would live as simply as I do.

Jesus Christ, son of God, was a "homeless person!" Have you not read where in the scripture he said, "The birds have their nests; the foxes have their holes; but the son of man hath nowhere

to lay his head?" He also told the parable of the rich man and the beggar who laid at the gate of the rich man's home, begging to be fed from the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, while the dogs licked his sores and wounds. He told of how, when the beggar died, he was carried by the angels to heaven, while the rich man died and awoke in torments, in the flames of hell.

Christ also said, and it is written, "as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, so ye have done it unto me." No good God-fearing Christian should dare to presume that our nation's "homeless" fail to fall into the category of "the least of these, my brethren."

As best as I am able, I follow the teachings of Jesus, and "clothe the naked, heal the sick, feed and house the poor, visit the fatherless, those in hospitals and in prisons, and above all else, live as peacefully as possible with all men." Thanks to many who have given to me, so that I might give and share with others.

Although it might be difficult, to say the least, please provide for the needs of others. For though many of them have brought their problems on themselves, they are in need of your care, regardless.

Aren't people, living souls, important enough?

Paddywagon Pete's New ID!

Name: <u>Calvin Peterson Pascoe</u> Date of Birth: <u>11/11/81</u> Sex: <u>M</u> Race: <u>W</u> Hair: <u>B</u> Eyes: <u>B</u> Complexion: <u>Fair</u> Height: <u>5'10"</u> Weight: <u>170</u> Social Security Number: <u>504-95-0660</u> Home Address: <u>90 BOY 1320 S.C. 95001</u> Business Address: <u>SE CORNER of FRONT & WATER</u> Occupation: <u>HOMELESS</u> Education: <u>NONE</u> Political Party: <u>None</u> Other: <u>None</u> Signature: <u>Calvin Peterson Pascoe</u> Date: <u>3/13/90</u>		HOMELESS I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election. I am not dependent on any person for the maintenance of a home. I wish under PENALTY OF PERJURY to be listed on the State of California list of information on the address and name. WARNING Penalty is provided by imprisonment in state prison for each year \$150 Penal Code. Signature: <u>Paul Gutzog</u> Date: <u>3/13/90</u>
--	--	--

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

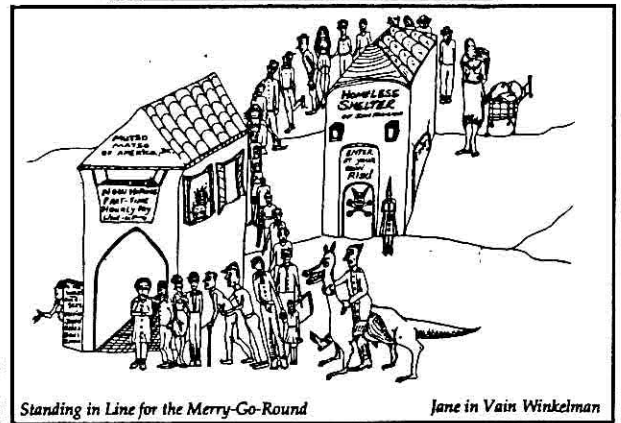
This card certifies that
COLVIN PASCOE
who resides at FRONT & WATER STREET
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
whose date of birth is 11/11/81
and whose state of birth is PERM.
is a registered voter of Santa Cruz County.

Dated MAR 9, 1990

RICHARD W. BICAL
County Clerk/Recorder

By Paul Gutzog
County Registrar

ELC-20167



Registrar of Voters accepts the Homeless Table as a bona fide address!

Why won't the SCPD?

From S.F.'s Street Sheet

JULY 4TH DECLARATION-OF-INDEPENDENCE FOR HOMELESS MOVES FORWARD PRELIMINARY PRESS RELEASE RELEASED AFTER FINAL SF MEETING

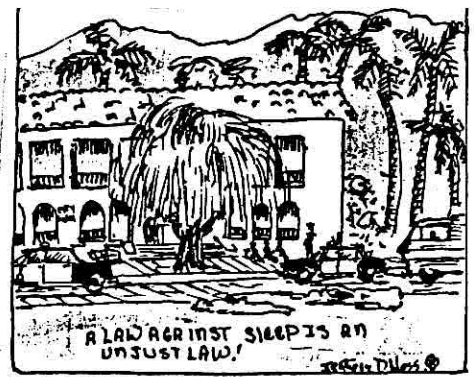
(Passed overwhelmingly at the Housing California 1990 Conference in Sacramento April 3 (with the Santa Cruz homeless bureaucrats reportedly either abstaining or opposing), the following resolution was passed by over 800 delegates from the Northern California Association for Non-Profit Housing, the California Coalition for Rural Housing, and the California Homeless Coalition:)

"WE RESOLVE TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE ACTION IN SANTA CRUZ ON JULY 4 OF ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE, ADVOCATES, NONPROFIT GROUPS AND SUPPORTERS, TO PROTEST POLICE HARASSMENT AND ANTI-CAMPING BANS, AND TO AFFIRM THE RIGHT TO SLEEP AND TO DECRIMINALIZE HOMELESSNESS."



John Claver leaving jail

Claver was badly beaten by police shortly after the quake, prompting the Mayor to open an official investigation. But police refused to drop bogus "resisting arrest" charges, so nothing has come out of the inquiry. (See Street Sheet #60).



(The following are excerpts from a soon-to-be issued press release by Northern California organizers of the First Homeless Congress, scheduled to be held July 3-5 in Santa Cruz.)

In many communities it is illegal to be homeless. People have been arrested for sleeping in streets and parks in cities which cannot offer them shelter and housing. Now is the time for us to protest.

Homeless people and concerned others met in Sacramento and decided to declare July 4, 1990 as the Independence Day, where life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the rights of homeless Americans. We demand that safe, affordable housing be created for everyone--no less.

In Santa Cruz, the city where the non-violent protest will be staged, 3000 units of service-enriched housing can and must be created to satisfy this need.

Furthermore, until this need can be met, we demand that shelter be offered to and run by (at least with 40% staff) homeless people.

We demand a moratorium on camping bans until such alternatives are available; in other words, that Santa Cruz and other communities cease futile arrests, and decriminalize homelessness.

...Santa Cruz is one of the many communities where it is illegal to be homeless. The City of Santa Cruz has an appalling lack of affordable housing, nowhere near enough to house all the low-income citizens in the community. The response by the city to this homelessness crisis has been to try to drive the homeless out of the area by criminalizing homelessness, banning camping, loitering, etc. If a homeless person lays his or her bedroll anywhere outdoors, he or she may be arrested or jailed, facing up to a \$138 fine.

The city, backed by the business community, has stepped up this harassment of the homeless tremendously in the past month busting homeless advocates and organizers. Homelessness cannot be made a criminal act when there is not enough housing for all of us. Because, unfortunately, Santa Cruz is but a microcosm of the way most California communities respond to homelessness, homeless people from all over California must converge on Santa Cruz this 4th of July to declare Independence of the crime of Homelessness.

We will be completely non-violent, but we will be breaking the laws by camping illegally. We will meet in Homeless Congress, organize ourselves, march to City Hall, and publicly explain the problem we face throughout California and what the solutions are. And then we will break the law by being homeless together.

(More news on what will surely be the biggest homeless demonstration in Santa Cruz in Street Shit Sheet #74)

Homeless battle for Penn Station

By CALVIN BIMS
The New York Times

NEW YORK — The New York Civil Liberties Union and other advocates for the homeless Saturday lambasted a plan by the Long Island Rail Road to evict homeless people from Penn Station.

The eviction plan is an effort to enforce strict new regulations that prohibit people from loitering, panhandling, or lying down in the train station.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the parent agency of the Long Island Rail Road, adopted the new rules in April after passengers complained that they were fed up with the growing number of homeless people and beggars in the station.

In a related move, the New York City Transit Authority, which is also part of the MTA, said last week that transit police officers would eject all panhandlers, including people silently extending cups, from the subway system.

That move followed a federal appeals court decision last month that upheld the Transit Authority's ban on begging in the subways.

But at a news conference at the station Saturday in Penn Station, advocates for the homeless said the new rules and stepped-up enforcement are driving homeless people to beg and sleep in city parks and streets.

Officials of four groups representing the homeless called on Mayor David N. Dinkins

and Gov. Mario M. Cuomo to meet with Robert R. Kiley, the MTA's chairman, to find what they called "a more humane solution to the problem."

The groups are the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Partnership for the Homeless, the Doe Fund, and the United Homeless Organization.

"Sweeping people onto the streets is not the solution. Homeless people are here because it's a last resort and they have nowhere else to go," said Peter Smith, president of the Partnership for the Homeless.

"MTA officials believe that they are only in the railroad business and that they have no social responsibility. But they are dead wrong, and unfortunately pushing people

into the street will show them that."

Norman Siegel, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said that enforcing the rules without violating civil rights would be difficult for the railroad police.

"Do you kick a person out if they are lying down and suddenly stand up when the police walk by?" Siegel asked. "If there is a homeless person who feels that his or her rights are being violated by this effort, we will defend them."

On any given day, hundreds of homeless people loiter in Penn Station, panhandling, stealing, sleeping on the floor and benches, and often fighting.

Political Science I
Pat Andrews
Tues.Thurs.12:30

A student looks
into H.U.F.F.

The Interest Group I selected is called H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom) and they currently have 50 members. I spoke with a member of the group, homeless activist Robert Norse who said, "the homeless aren't seeking shelter from the elements of nature so much, as shelter from police harrassment." He kept pointing out that their main concern wasn't that they had no where to live, but that the police constantly harrassed them because of the fact.

Techniques commonly used by H.U.F.F. to get a message across are sit-ins, sleep-ins, and writing their congresspeople. Some local members have set up a card table at the corner of Front and Water Street in Santa Cruz where they sell literature as a means of calling attention to the police harrassment they have received, which has not let up even after the 1989' earthquake which left so many people homeless.

On July 4th homeless from all over the country will flock to Santa Cruz in solidarity against the current sleeping ban in Santa Cruz. A week long protest/convention is planned, complete with seminars on the welfare system and how to deal with discrimination by restaurant employees. Jesse Jackson has also been requested to appear.

This plan came out of a conference in Sacramento attended by 800 California homeless. Of these, 750 voted to locate their next meeting in Santa Cruz.

Why here? According too Norse, Santa Cruz was chosen because it's "progressive city council babbles about Nicaragua...and ends up oppressing its own homeless." 4 out of 7 votes are needed by the city council to end the ban.

The city of Santa Barbara California had a sleeping ban similar to the one Santa Cruz now enforces, but after a six month seige of the City Hall grounds and steps 24 hours a day the anti-sleep law was rescinded. Credit for this should probably go too the Santa Barbara Homeless Coalition for organizing this event, and sticking with it.

H.U.F.F. currently has no Lobbyist, or P.A.C..

H.U.F.F.
509 Broadway
Santa Cruz, Ca.95062

Jeff Vogt
4-17-90

Robert Norse (408)427-1205

COMING SOON...to a Street Shit Sheet near you...

Santa Barbara Sleepers Strike Back: the first 50 days on the steps of City Hall;

Try Your Ticket! (Part 2 of the wildly popular Fight Your Ticket flyer still available at Homeless Table #14)

The Great Upper Mall Bench RipOff: a special report from our undercover informant Deadeye Dave on how City Parks is turning a blind eye to the continuing rape and privatization of what's left of the mall.

Down-to-the-minute Details of the Upcoming July 4 First Homeless Congress!

And...maybe some those juicy Coming Attractions we advertised in past issues that never appeared!

RIGHTS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

On November 2, 1988, the San Francisco Police Commission passed a resolution on the rights of homeless people. This resolution means that members of the San Francisco Police Department must respect the rights of homeless people in San Francisco.

THE POLICE MUST RESPECT YOUR RIGHTS

1. Police must treat all persons equally, regardless of their economic or living condition.
2. Homeless people have the same legal and individual rights as other people.
3. Homeless people shall receive the same prompt, courteous police service provided to other residents, workers and visitors in San Francisco.



COALITION ON
HOMELESSNESS
SAN FRANCISCO

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

ALL persons have the rights to use the public streets. Vagrancy is not a crime. You cannot be threatened with arrest or arrested simply for being on a street, sidewalk, or in a public park.

You cannot be detained or asked for identification simply on the basis of your race, sex, sexual preference, age, dress, or impoverished appearance or because of generalized complaints by residents or merchants.

A police officer may only briefly detain someone for questioning or identification if there is a specific reason to suspect that a crime has taken place or is about to take place. A police officer's "hunch" is not a good enough reason to stop and question a person.

Searches conducted by a police officer must respect a person's legal and constitutional rights.

IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

If you believe that your rights have been violated, you can file a complaint with the Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC) by phone 553-1407 or in person at 555 7th Street at Bryant. Please drop off or send a copy of your complaint to the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, or to the Coalition (address below).

126 Hyde St., #102
San Francisco, CA 94102
348-3740

HOMELESSNESS IS NOT A CRIME!

Time for a Santa Cruz
Civilian Police Review Board

City on a Mill:

Your May 3rd "Foe Pause" City Clip reads like a PR release from the Mayor's office. Her "Oral Communications" rules were adopted without prior notice to the group they most affected--homeless speakers, whose only public forum and channel of input is that period. They have severely, arbitrarily, and unnecessarily limited total speaking time to half an hour. Wormhoudt to the contrary, Oral Communications has not gone over an hour in months. Homeless speakers have generally been brief, to the point, and relevant in their comments. Unseemly news of police harassment that would otherwise never see the light of day receives a moment of public attention.

Wormhoudt and her predecessor and crony John Laird have been doing their best to ignore or silence debate on homeless issues for the last two years. They both have the significant distinction of having arrested homeless speakers at the microphone. Laird's attempt to send four of us to jail for insisting on our three minutes at the mike was finally thrown out by the courts last fall. Mardi's blueshirts arrested one speaker in March (he faces up to 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine) and had him dragged from the room a second time at the April 24th meeting under "unwritten amendments" to her new rules. (The man, who had been introduced by the prior speaker, refused to reply to the Mayor's repeated demand that he repeat his name.)

4-5 city police have been assigned to Council meetings. A police photographer in a highly visible position has videotaped all speakers at the April 17th and April 24th meetings, in a blatant move to chill first amendment rights. ("Make a speech, get arrested for camping tickets!")

The cries of pain and anger that Wormhoudt's Council is tired of hearing are the direct result of police policies sanctioned if not initiated by her. Do UCSC students know that the homeless survival gear of over a dozen people is still under lock and key in a police warehouse, including the Homeless Table itself and the political literature that was on it? Do they know

with the ending of the drop-in Satellite Shelter program April 30, there is no shelter space whatever for the overwhelming majority of homeless Santa Cruzans?

Wormhoudt knows this. And she's tired of hearing about it. So she puts a gag rule at City Council as yet another provocation to those who have been denied a real hearing year after year. It would be nice if Mardi, like the rest of us, made a little more use of the letters columns and a little less use of backdoor phone calls to get her views across.

Robert Norse
614 Hanover St.

Unpublished letter to CHP last month after "City Clips" reporter did Wormhoudt + puff piece.



Jabberwocky Jay before shaving his legendary beard and losing his camper's cap!

STREET SHEET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS, SF
May 1990

Yet another city erupts with its very own Street Sheet

Bathrobespierre attacks Gong of 7 Gag rule!



"It's always better to negotiate from a position of power."

↓ MAY 31st Demands to SCPD ↓

In response to the violent, brutal, and excessive force used by Santa Cruz Police Sergeant Bob Hennig against Michael Hobson on May 30, 1990, outside the Union Grove Music store at 1003 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, we, the undersigned, now demand:

1. That Sergeant Hennig be immediately and temporarily suspended without pay, for at least fourteen consecutive days, from any and all of his duties as a police officer in the employ of the Santa Cruz Police Dept.
2. That the Santa Cruz Police Department conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the violent acts committed by Sergeant Hennig against Michael Hobson on the aforesaid day at the aforesaid location, and that all findings of this investigation be fully disclosed to the public within thirty days from today; May 31, 1990.
3. That Sergeant Hennig participate in and satisfactorily pass the entire training course taught by Men's Alternatives To Violence, located at 307 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, before December 31, 1990.
4. That the Santa Cruz Police Department further retrain and re-educate Sergeant Hennig as to the proper and appropriate conduct of a police officer, and that evidence that such training occurred or is occurring be disclosed to the public within thirty days from today.
5. That Sergeant Hennig admit, in a written and signed letter of apology to Michael Hobson, that: on May 30, 1990, outside of the Union Grove Music store at 1003 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, California, he; Sergeant Hennig, did use excessive force against Michael Hobson.

We the undersigned do not condemn Sergeant Hennig. We condemn his violent, abusive, and inappropriate behavior, and we hold him and the Santa Cruz Police Department responsible for his behavior.

We are sick of violence! We are sick of police brutality! We want an end to this injustice! If our demands are not met we are prepared to take legal action against Sergeant Hennig and the Santa Cruz Police Department.

We now sit-in and await the personal appearance of Police Chief Jack Basset to confirm in writing by his signature that all five of our demands will be met. We refuse to disperse until Chief Basset does so.

od Evening, Council Members

name is Mary Lincoln. I have been homeless twice in a one-year period in Santa Cruz, and I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the homeless community.

fore I continue, I want to clarify a few points. I am not a drug-user. I am not an alcoholic. I work as often as I can, and am a full-time student.

feel the need to clarify my status for you because there is an insidious stereotype of the homeless in this community - one which pictures homeless citizens as people who don't deserve or even desire our help, as people whose primary goal in life is to create discomfort for the deserving people of the community. I want to say that those generalities about the homeless are just false generalities, and they don't excuse a lack of action on homeless issues.

iving said that, I want to commend you on the River St. Shelter. Just recently, when I was homeless for two months, I was privileged to stay at River St., and I was impressed by the program there. It's clean and safe, with an excellent staff and a broad array of services: well-planned and well-executed. The people who stay there are among the elite of the homeless and they respond by finding jobs and housing for themselves. Unfortunately, funding is inadequate to enlarge the facility, so it continues to serve a scant 10 to 15 percent of the homeless.

second program in Santa Cruz, the Satellite Shelter Program, while less comprehensive in services, also fulfills a vital need. It provides warmth, food, bedding, and safety to up to 100 or so homeless citizens. There are problems with the Satellite: one is the lack of shower facilities. Another you recently resolved when you installed a few lockers for storage behind River St. That is certainly a step in the right direction. But there is the primary problem which is not being addressed. The Satellite program scaled back operations on May 1, and is serving only 15 of the 100 to 110 people it formerly served. This is an 85% setback in services. No provision was made to accommodate those expelled from the program. Where have they gone?

all, I did an informal survey to see what impact the closure of the Satellite had on that community. From my sample, it seems many of them are simply camping illegally. Some are being ticketed. Some are being arrested for their illegal camping. On the survey forms, one person felt compelled to add a note saying, "I don't think this is the way I want to live. I'd never do this unless I were desperate." Another said, "I'm getting tired of sleeping in the streets." And one included a lengthy note

expressing dismay that one of the richest areas of the world would do so little to help their citizens in need.

ome people in Santa Cruz believe if we don't provide services to the homeless, they'll go away. Perhaps they will, but will they go to jobs and housing or will they simply be homeless some place else? And if so, where? Are we interested in helping homeless human beings or are we content to drive them from place to place like a pack of mangy curs. In fact, I've heard some homeless say they'd get better treatment if they were dogs.

f we want to help, we can do so at minimal cost. Set up a campground. Let them police themselves. Provide services for those who want to seek work. It wouldn't take much.

r at least don't make criminals out of citizens who merely need a place to sleep. If we can't provide it, at least we can stop ticketing and arresting those who try to provide it for themselves.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Marionade Mary speaks to the Gang of 7



Rabbit and Moonrise Mike

Homeless

Continued from Page A 1

passed in 1986. Superior Court Judge Bruce Dodds ruled in November 1989 that the law banned "temporarily living in the outdoors."

Homeless people claimed that Dodds' ruling made it a crime to be homeless or sleep outdoors. The city responded by instructing the police to enforce the law as the City Council intended, that is, to allow sleeping but not camping.

Lodge said at the press conference, "There is no law against sleeping in Santa Barbara."

The press conference ended about 1:30 p.m. Two-and-a-half hours later, the police began their sweep.

They told people outside City Hall to pick up their belongings and leave, according to Clark, who said he was in a sleeping bag.

Most of the homeless men and women took their gear and assembled on the grass in De la Guerra Plaza. About 20 people sat in the plaza amid sleeping bags, backpacks and bedrolls and quietly watched the police. Every once in a while, a curse rang out from the plaza.

Police officers, some wearing rubber gloves, then gathered up the belongings remaining on the City Hall grounds. They packed full about 20 garbage bags and loaded them onto one of two city trucks.

City workers with brooms then swept the area clean.

Police issued two citations, according to Lt. Richard Glaus. One was for blocking the sidewalk and the other for setting up a table and soliciting donations without a proper permit, he said.

A police officer videotaped the operation.

Robert Wagner, a homeless man said in De la Guerra Plaza, "I

don't think this is right. The only choice now is to sleep on State Street."

Dennis Lock, also a homeless man, said, "It's fascism."

Little towns are cracking down against the homeless, he said. The goal is to push homeless people into big cities and then into camps, he added.

Glaus said the police were "moving people out who insist on camping" in the city. "We're also removing unclaimed property," he added.

People whose belongings were confiscated may claim them today at the police property office, he said.

Mayor Lodge said the police move Tuesday because it was clear to her that the city and homeless were not making progress in negotiations over the no-camping ordinance.

The police had not been strictly enforcing all ordinances during the negotiations, she said.

Will Hastings, staff counsel and executive director of the Legal Defense Center, said Tuesday the center is "more than likely" to file a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the no-camping law.

"It seems clear to me we'll have to file it," he said.

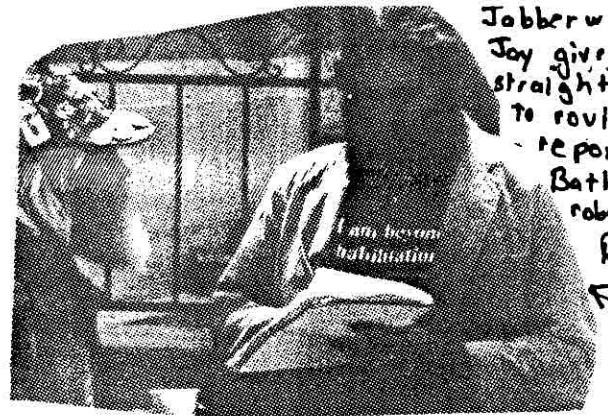
After the police had gone, 20 to 25 members of the Homeless Coalition held a meeting on the steps of City Hall.

"I just want to know what the law is," one woman said. "I'm lost about what the law is."

Police returned to the plaza after 10 p.m. where they arrested one man, Bob Hansen, for being on City Hall property after closure, according to Sgt. Jim Ferguson.

Otherwise all was quiet, Ferguson said.

About eight people in front of the building appeared to be leaving.



Jobberwocky
Joy gives the
straight dop
to roving
reporter
Bath-
robberspiery
Robert

Homeless protesters evicted at City Hall

By Donald Murphy
Herald-Press Staff Writer

The city of Santa Barbara cracked down Tuesday on the homeless people who have been sleeping and protesting outside City Hall since early April.

About a dozen police officers made the protesters move away from the building. The police then loaded property of homeless protesters who weren't there onto a truck and took it away.

The homeless people reacted with anger and confusion.

The police action came several hours after a press conference on the steps of City Hall, during which Police Chief Richard Breza said his department "finds it necessary to increase police activity around City Hall."

Breza distributed a list of 14 laws that he indicated would be strictly enforced. They included prohibitions against obstructing the sidewalk, littering, damaging city fixtures, camping and similar misdemeanors or infractions.

Mayor Sheila Lodge said at the press conference that the homeless protest was "counterproductive" since it made city employees and residents feel threatened or uncomfortable.

"This has turned into a camping scene here," she said, gesturing at the area outside City Hall, where people have been sleeping and spending time for about five weeks.

After listening to Breza and Lodge, Jamie Clark, a homeless man, said "They want us out of here so they can get their tourism back."

William Shannon, a homeless man, shook his head and said "We only count during the census."

The City Hall protest was aimed at forcing the City Council to amend a no-camping ordinance

See HOMELESS, Page A 16

The Santa Barbara sleep struggle continues...

Santa Barbara, California, Wednesday, May 2, 1990

When people concerned about homelessness look closely enough to peer through the political smoke and the media mirrors surrounding City Hall, they can just barely glimpse in what direction our City is heading in seeking a homeless solution.

San Francisco is standing still.

It seems as if when the left hand of City government is humanely extended to support the efforts of many to leave the streets, the right hand strikes them down, back into the gutters and doorways.

The political smoke hovering over homeless issues is so thick around City Hall that the public can't see the concrete reality before them. The fire was lit at Mayor Agnos' inauguration when he vowed that homeless people would no longer have to seek the sidewalks, the doorways, or the parks for shelter by the end of his term. He wanted to be the mayor who solved homelessness.

His fire began to smoke in February, 1988, when he used the police to ticket and arrest the vehicular residents in the Haight; negotiations to find City-owned open areas for them had collapsed over liability concerns. Although they scattered throughout the City, all the public saw was that they weren't in Haight.

The smoke got worse in December, 1988, when the *Tenderloin Times* found that the sidewalk deaths of homeless people, according to coroner records — which only investigate a quarter of all deaths — had risen to over a hundred for apparently the first time. Demands by homeless people and their advocates for preventive public health measures to reduce such deaths were readily accepted; privately, City Hall officials believed what was asked was simple and easy. Hailed as a national first, the City was to analyze the coroner records, make public a monthly report, and recommend preventive strategies.

As soon as Joseph Eaton, the man who died outside Carl's Jr. restaurant in U.N. Plaza that same December, was forgotten, so was the nation's first model program to prevent such deaths.

By the summer of 1989, the Civic Center residents with their carts and tents and worldly goods became a harsh reminder to tourists and City Hall bureaucrats alike that shelters — of which only one in the City met both building and health codes — and the Patel Hotel Cartel of inadequate and unsafe SRO's were not decent and humane alternatives to camping in the parks.

Again the police were used against homeless people to remove their meager possessions from the eyes of the public. Jackets and blankets were deemed sufficient protection against

the wind, the cold, and the rain.

Many of them simply found other parks and doorways in which to survive; the public only saw that Camp Agnos was no more.

A month later, *Beyond Shelter* was released as a comprehensive long-term strategy to alleviate homelessness. Although it merely repeated what had already been budgeted for that year, it too was seen as a national model. Those already on the streets were little affected.

The public only saw that programs existed, not that they were too few, not sufficiently funded, and, more importantly, that crucial programs were not even created.

Earthquake relief dollars eventually led to Multi-Service Centers that are still battling NIMBY opposition; hotels were preserved as low-income housing through non-profit acquisition, both of which were touted as decent and humane housing alternatives for those in the parks and streets.

The public only saw that shelter and housing had expanded, not that these spaces were already occupied. (See "Shell Game Solution", page 1.)

Presently, homeless people in the parks and the streets live in a climate of fear and frustration. Police confiscate their belongings, against state law, because no locker system exists to store them; Mayor Agnos proclaims before merchant groups that sleeping in City parks will not be allowed; hotels and multi-service beds are not even in enough numbers to shelter those living in Civic Center; the FRED program discourages those in need to apply for help; new proposed guidelines for public housing evictions procedures (see "Housing Authority", page 2) will put more people out in the streets.

City Hall's rhetoric will clash with homeless reality when City Hall decides to jump on the NIMBY bandwagon and not allowing sleeping in Civic Center. The political smoke, reflected through the mirrors of the media, will finally clear the way for the public to see the smoke for what it truly is: ashes from a fire that has not been tended.

More than 200 people gathered in the Civic Auditorium last Tuesday as Vision Santa Cruz unveiled a series of recommendations, known as "first principles," to an attentive City Council.

Several homeless people, including Linda, Jay, Norman, Rodent, and Leith spoke during oral communications. Leith's protest of the Camping Ban could be heard long after he was escorted from the auditorium by two of Santa Cruz' "finest." Determined to have her say even when oral communications had been closed after 30 minutes by the new "gag rule," Linda rushed to the microphone and firmly told the Council to "stop scapegoating the homeless." Bravo, Linda! Although most of the homeless people left after oral communications, their spirit continued to haunt the auditorium. Many people who spoke later attempted to make a distinction between the "truly homeless" and "street people." Perhaps we should begin making a distinction between the "truly heartless" and the "just unsympathetic" so that we can split hairs with the rest and the best of them.

Vision Santa Cruz spokesman Bruce Van Allen, after a long and incomprehensible attempt to relate his bread baking and Mexican tortilla making to the rebuilding of the downtown area, presented the recommendations to the Council. Included in the presentation was a recommendation that all SRO units downtown be rebuilt. The tone of the presentation was one of dedicated citizens eager to serve the Council and the downtown community. The Council's reception of the recommendations was enthusiastic and appreciative — Santa Cruz is on the move at last... The reaction of the Downtown Merchants Association, represented by A. C. Smith, was somewhat cooler, with more emphasis on economic realities and the "bottom line."

Before moving to officially adopt the Vision Santa Cruz recommendations, Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt solicited input and comments from the audience. At this point several citizens expressed concern about the presence of "street people" in the downtown area. The tone was perhaps best summed up by one man who requested that the Mall be made "a safe place for our loved ones to shop." No street people, please!

The issue of "open space" was discussed at some length. Suggestions centered around the notion of "defensible" space (so that's why they invited the Navy ship here). Base of police patrol, maximization of privately-owned space for better enforcement of trespass laws, and encouragement of "acceptable" social gatherings were among the proposed defense tactics.

After some quibbling over building heights and the wording of certain recommendations, the Gang of Seven officially and unanimously adopted the "first principles." Councilman John Laird and Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt congratulated each other, the Council, and Vision Santa Cruz on another job well done.



Gingersnap George gets the goods on Vision Santa Cruz.

George whips up midnight feast for Memorial Weekend sleepers.

5/12/90

The Homeless Crier

Vol. I, No. 2 Tuesday May 15, 1990 Page 1

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Billie J. Southard 12-14-59 to 4-13-90

"And homeless near a thousand homes I stood and near a thousand tables pinned for food."

(William Wordsworth 1770-1850)

THE HOMELESS CRIER

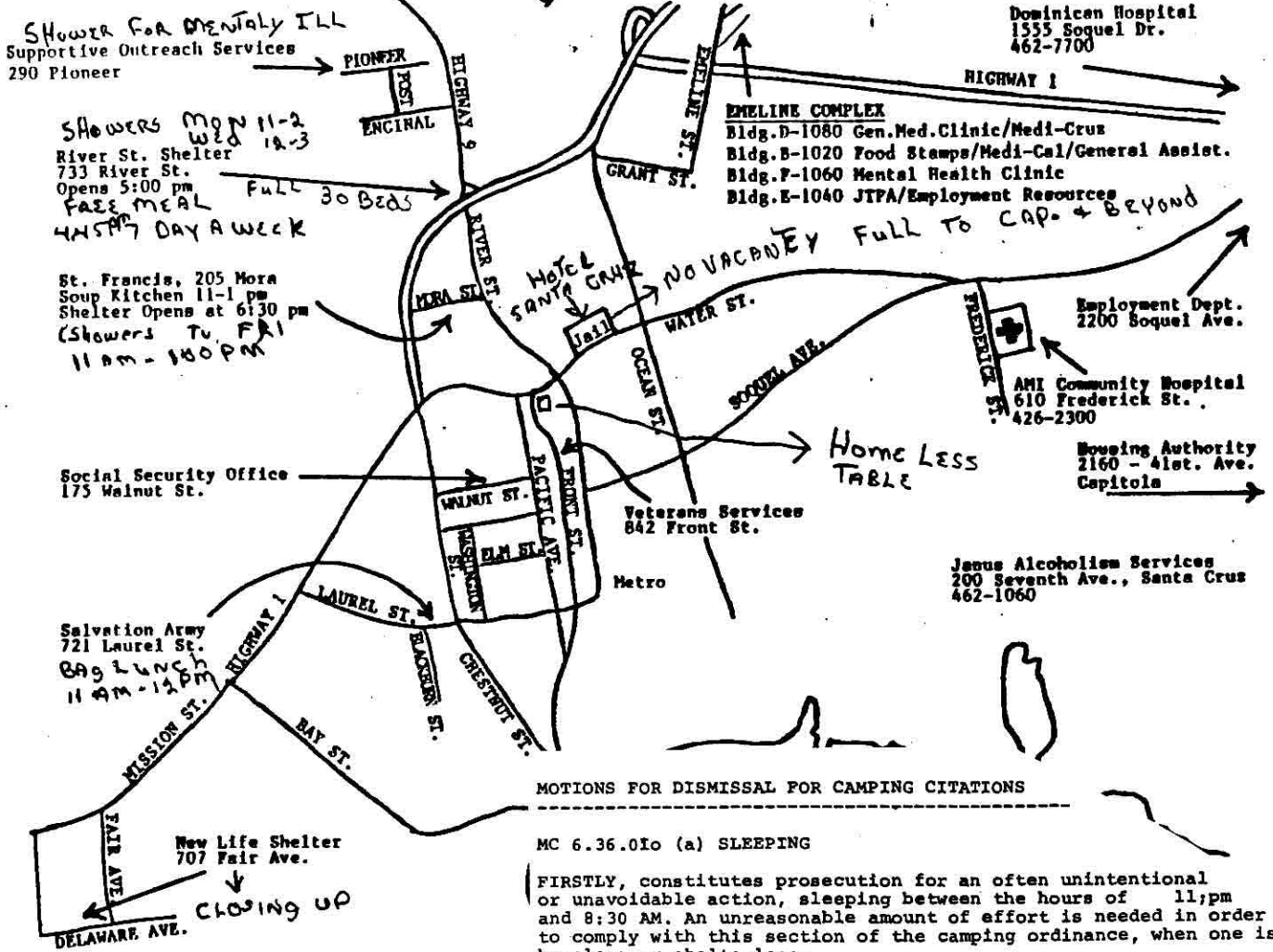
Published by, and for, San Franciscans for Welfare Reform, an adhoc association of homeless people addressing the issues of homelessness, welfare dependency, prostitution, drug addiction, and crime, and by such means seeking solution of these age-old afflictions of human societies.

WELFARE FRAUD PAGE 4
ELECTION FRAUD? PAGE 3

Life outdoors in S.F.

Rh

A new homeless newsletter from the streets of S.F.
Next issue: more of this rag's attacks on "poverty pimps!"



MOTIONS FOR DISMISSAL FOR CAMPING CITATIONS

MC 6.36.010 (a) SLEEPING

FIRSTLY, constitutes prosecution for an often unintentional or unavoidable action, sleeping between the hours of 11:pm and 8:30 AM. An unreasonable amount of effort is needed in order to comply with this section of the camping ordinance, when one is homeless or shelterless.

SECONDLY, Not allowing an individual to sleep at night, waking the person, prosecution for sleeping, and mandatory wakefulness constitute cruel or unusual punishment, and should not be allowed to continue, as a violation of Amendment 8, US CONSTITUTION.

MC 6.36.010 (b), CAMPING

THE it's-legal-to-freeze-but-not-to stay-warm argument setting up bedding...

Article One Sect One of the cal state constitution, protects the individual's right to obtain safety. Not allowing an individual to use blankets, sleeping bags, or other protective gear for warmth and protection and safety from the elements regardless of weather and climatic conditions should constitute a violation of the individual's right to obtain safety. CAL STATE CON, Art. one, Sect. one

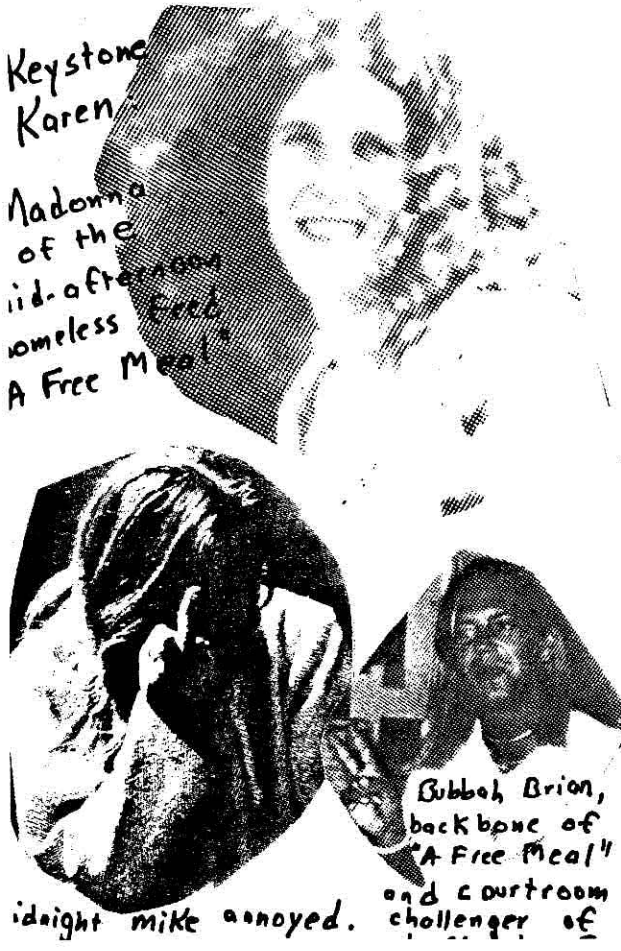
Motion to Dismiss for All Camping Cases, Sect 6.36 MC

It is the cities (City of Santa Cruz's) failure to name areas for public camping as allowable according to MC 6.36.020 (CAMPING PERMITTED) which has lead to the present situation of no legal sleeping option for the homeless.

ALSO, the camping ordinance is used against one class of people: the non renting, non-owning class: and applies to the shelterless individuals of the community nightly, and is therefore discrimination against a specific segment of the population, the poor.

MOTION FOR DISSMISSAL TO ALL CAMPING TICKETS ARRIVED UPON THROUGH PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION (SLEEP INS)

Part of the public political debate concerning both housing and homelessness: issues is whether or not the shelterless really exist and what they look like or who they are. Sleeping in public in organized groups establishes the existence of the homeless as well as the need for low-income housing. The right to demonstrate in public, and influence public political debate through demonstration should extend to demonstrating the existence of homelessness actively and in public, and should be protected by the first amendment rights to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and to petition the government for redress of grievances. US CONSTITUTION, First Amendment.



SANTA CRUZ

July 4, 1990

STREET SHIT SHEETSpecial FREE
Indep Day Issue

"The triumph of justice is the only peace."
--Robert G. Ingersoll, *Prose Poems & Selections* (1884)

Due to time pressures from the hurried preparations for Homeless Independence Day, the regular 30 pp. Street Shit Sheet will not be available until later this week. Those interested in securing a copy should forward \$1.50 to 614 Hanover St., Santa Cruz CA 95062.

INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY WILL CHALLENGE "GANG OF 7" STONEWALL SPEECHES, WORKSHOPS, MARCHES TO EXPOSE STATE-WIDE CRACKDOWN

Two weeks ago, Santa Barbara homeless activist "Many Miles" Mike Wilson, his shopping cart and tattered but still-flying American flag were taken into custody 12 miles out of Santa Cruz for "walking on the roadway." This morning after two weeks in jail, Wilson returned to the scene of his crime to complete his 280-mile Freedom of Sleep march from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz, which he had begun three months ago. "It's ironic that only in Santa Cruz County was I denied safe passage; every other police jurisdiction waved me through--with a smile."

Wilson is just one of the several hundred homeless folks and sympathetic activists from Sonoma to Los Angeles due in Santa Cruz today at San Lorenzo Park to debate and celebrate Homeless Independence Day. The first state-wide Homeless Congress will involve a cluster of varied organizations with the local leadership from H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom) will be scrambling to accommodate the guests.

Gingersnap George and Slyshoes Sandra Loranger (jailed last summer for serving food at the Town Clock without a permit) of SWAP (Soup Without A Permit) will be joining S.F.'s Food not Bombs to ladle out the edibles for the six meals planned for the 4th and the 5th.

Street activist and construction worker Yahsehweh has rounded up a few bands and singers for the event (Hominey Grits, Mark Levy, The Nameless Ones). City Parks & Rec has facilitated the event by renting out its San Lorenzo benchlands at reduced rates to the activists in a timely shift from its previous refusal to allow a sympathy *Housing Now!* Tent City there last October.

The march route is slated to take the merry rights-seekers past the County Jail on Water St., up to Ocean St. to

1 Meet the Gang of 7--our 7 City Council people, who continue to criminalize homeless sleep at night, blandly gag and arrest homeless speakers at their council meetings, and conduct business as usual while their police seize homeless blankets and bedding.

2 When Mayor Wormhoudt and other city councilpeople went to Washington D.C. to ask for affordable housing last fall, locals seeking to dramatize police harassment of homeless sleepers here were told to cough up \$400+ for "maintenance and security" costs and an insurance policy that would have cost \$1000 for a one-night 30-person sleep-in in the same San Lorenzo Benchlands.

By seemingly resolving insurance and permit problems this time, the city has acknowledged the demonstration's determination to come into being, legally if possible, but through non-violent civil disobedience if necessary.

survey hoards of hot traffic-jammed tourists, down to Broadway/Laurel St. and across the river. En route marchers can marvel at inane "comical" signs lining the roadway, purchased at a reported \$50,000 (when \$7000 would have restored the city's gutted Interfaith Satellite Shelter program). They will thrill to the adventure of searching for a restroom along with thousands of other tourists--in a town that continues to refuse to install adequate facilities downtown then rants about homeless "using the rivers as toilets."

The march down the Pacific Garden Mall will pass by the Forbidden Fence at Union Grove Music where homeless activist Mike Hobson found his face meeting the sidewalk, complements of Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig just over a month ago. His crime: sitting on the fence. Marchers may also be able to observe the billowing tops of the spacious "merchant tents"--erected shortly after the earthquake at about the same time the city was shredding tents on the outskirts of town set up by homeless campers. (The most recent such incident happened three days ago.)

Some local liberals, eager to cement their ties with the police and media, and hopeful of squeezing a few crumbs out of the City Council, were able to persuade a local meeting of the homeless to shift location of the main demonstration. It is planning to march to the County Building instead of of the City Hall and its adjacent Police Dept. as originally planned. City Hall was initially chosen as the focus of the protest because it is the center of city power, the site of innumerable local protests against the infamous Sleeping Ban, and home to the enforcers of that ban.

Some were fearful of "a violent confrontation" between homeless citizens and Busenhart's Buffoons'. Others are considering marching independently to City Hall to have a dialogue with the dreaded "red-shirts" in hopes of curing their homeless-phobia, or, at least, countering some of the misinformation being spread.

The march down the mall will take a breather at the famous Homeless Table #14 at the Main Post Office where a 7 1/2 month vigil against the Camping Ban continues its "no-budget" housing encampment. After speeches and cheers there, marchers will return up Water St. to the County Building where people's attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich and other crowd-pleasers will speak to those willing to listen.

Lunch is slated for 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dinner for 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bands, speeches, some workshops, embraces, sunbathing, and general (non-alcoholic) merriment will fill the interim. Volunteer to help with food, communications, speaking, taping, preparing for the evening's potential civil disobedient sleep-in, and keeping the organizers from each others' throats.

Welcome to Santa Cruz. Tonight there will be few if any legal sleeping spaces for the homeless. But we invite you to pull up a sleeping bag anyway and reclaim the earth for all of us.

3 Led by Carolyn Busenhart of Concerned Capitola Cosmeticians Against Santa Cruz Street People (also known as the "Take Back Our Town"). Busenhart, who seems to be urging police-enforced sleep deprivation for those "on the streets but not truly homeless," has helped publicize our event with expensive daily newspaper ads, urging her closet trolibuster troops to "wear red shirts for identification."

STREET SHEET

Tuesday
~~Thursday~~

#75

July ~~10~~ 1990

"Bed is the boon for me!
It's well to bake and sweep.
But hear the word of old Lizette:
It's better than all to sleep.
--Agnes Lee, *Old Lizette on Sleep*

Preview
Edition 1

25c or borrow PREVIEW OF THE BIGGEST STREET SHEET YET !!

(The following are excerpts from Street Sheet #75 due out July 11. We regret the delay, but this is the longest Sheet ever and the most exhausting to release. Here is a tempting sample of what will be in it when it comes out tomorrow:)

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....ANNOUNCEMENTS.....ANNOUNCEMENTS

.....July 11 7:30 AM Coconut Grove Police Chief Bassett and Social Worker Bill Watt address the Chamber of Commerce breakfast on "What To Do With the Street People?" Tickets \$15 at the Downtown Association. Free Sidewalk Soup Breakfast Outside from the Homeless Hunger Project, speeches on "What To Do With Police Chief "Bastinado" Bassett's Police Force?"

.....July 11 6 PM Back of the River St. Shelter Homeless and Concerned Citizens Meet to Discuss Plans for a Legalized Campground.

.....July 11 6:45 PM PM City Manager's Office at City Hall Women's Commission For the Prevention of Violence To Women; Problems of Homeless Women.

.....July 11 7:30 PM Louden Nelsen Center Discussion of Need for Housing (SROs) in Santa Cruz

.....July 18 12 PM-2 PM Mental Health Advocacy Board meets at Emeline St County Complex, Bldg. F. Public Comments near the end of the meeting.

JANE IMLER REMEMBERS MITCH SNYDER

Deep sensitivity towards the human condition can exact a high price, as evidenced by Mitch Snyder's death today. However, I believe it also can offer all of us an opportunity to reflect on our differences in the movement. Perhaps with Mitch's passing, whatever the reasons may be, we can all become in a very small way Mitch Snyders. Organize ourselves and become even more militant than we have up to this point.

Mitch always told his fellow activists that good things happened on a rainy day. And as we reflect on his death on a rainy day, we begin to question this. However, I do believe this is our opportunity to reflect, come together again, and work even harder, if for no other reason, than to make his dreams come true.

Dreams that would make it possible for folks, poor or rich, to find a place to sleep on a rainy night. A society that would step forward and feed those in need of something to eat. A country where people would have the freedom to sleep in their automobiles or out of doors, if they so choose.

There's a new star in the heavens tonight, shining down on all those folks outside. Keep twinkling, Mitch.

BATHROBESPIERRE ROBERT SPEAKS OF MITCH

Mitch Snyder, national homeless activist, died earlier today. He came to Santa Cruz in April of 1989 to support the right of the homeless to eat and share food--a right that continues to be challenged but has been fairly successfully maintained over the last nine months.

Three months ago, Mitch marched the first twenty blocks in the Santa Barbara Homeless Rights Coalition's Walk Against Sleeping Bans, a march that activist Mike Wilson finished at Homeless Independence Day yesterday. That homeless rally was the largest one ever for Santa Cruz--demanding an end to discrimination, an end to harassment for sleeping, and a commitment to equal rights and decent facilities for all.

Mitch would have been proud. He sent a message that but for his involvement in the Washington D.C. shelter Amendment struggle, he would have been here with us. So let us mourn, and then let us organize--and keep our eye on the objective that his work made so much more real and tangible: a future where every person knows her own worth, and society is transformed to acknowledge, value, and support that worth.

Most of us who support the Homeless Table never met Mitch. But the Homeless Table continues to work to welcome the stranger and demand he be treated as a human being--with integrity, with dignity, with basic needs acknowledged, regardless of income or appearance. I think that our rage at laws that make sleeping or any other essential human need illegal was also his rage. And when the evening comes when that meanness and prejudice is washed away, it will be a victory for us all--our victory and Mitch's.

--Bathrobespierre Robert Norse
(July 5, 1990)

PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW

16 TICKETS AT 4TH OF JULY SLEEP-OUT; BATHROBESPIERRE BAGGED! HOMELESS CONGRESS ENDS WITH TRADITIONAL LOW-KEY MIDNIGHT NAP

Peacekeeping monitors were themselves illegally asleep when Sgt. Sealy's slumberslayer squad arrived at the Homeless Table in the wee hours of July 5 to send another 16 into the costly courtroom tango of Sleeping Ban trials. Monitors Paul Brindel and Sherry Conable, part of the group that formed to "defuse confrontations" during the July 4th Homeless Congress, were slumbering in their vehicles, according to fellow monitor "Slyshoes" Sandy Loranger. Slyshoes hurriedly awakened them when the gang of public-funded pillow-snatchers arrived on the scene. The two midnight-catnappers were not questioned or cited by the dour ticket-wielding nightstalkers.

Bathrobespierre Robert, less fortunate, was clapped into irons and hauled off for "inadequate identification" when he refused to give any more details than his name and address. "You have all that information already," groaned the rumpled activist, "and you know who I am." "One refuses to identify himself," radioed in "Bust 'em and Book 'em" Baker. "Is he local?" asked the unforgiving squawk box. "It's Robert Norse," replied the triumphant lawman. "Take him in," said Sleepbuster Central.

PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW FLASHES....PREVIEW

NEW COP THEFTS, NUISANCE RAIDS, DAY-AFTER TICKETS AT TABLE.

4 MORE \$10,000+ JURY TRIALS ON HORIZON IN FLAG SEIZURE CASE

Thursday afternoon (July 5), Hobohunter Hennig succumbed to "harassment frenzy" and returned to the scene of his past crimes at the Table to threaten tablewatchers there. With no other safe and supervised place to store homeless possessions, the Table has become a default security area for folks tired of carrying everything around on their backs. Hennig announced a white-glove inspection later that afternoon, and homeless demonstrators did a clean-up job on the area.

Unmollified, the sardonic sergeant returned around 4 PM with head bumbuster, Police Chief Jack Bassett watching from nearby. As Hennig and his henchman did another ripoff of sleeping bags, blankets, food containers, and personal items, Moonrise Mike Carreiro was informed he faced a jury trial and misdemeanor charges of Public Nuisance for tending the table.

"Some Folks"

Some folks never saw beyond
The bedroll at his side;
Some folks never keyed upon
The fact he kept his head held high.

Some folks thought he lost his morals;
Some were on the road;
In truth, his Lord had strengthened them
To withstand mighty blows.

Some folks never saw the man,
Hidden in this rhyme.
Some folks will never understand
His message and its time.

Some folks thought they had him pegged
After just a glance;
Then got hot when they found they were not
His master in life's mental dance.

Some folks viewed the way he lived,
And said, "hey, Mitch, that's insane!"
Then would pretend to be his friend
For a chance to mine such precious veins.

Some folks don't appreciate
What he gave for free
Though he gave it selflessly
To show the very heart of "We."

Still some folks never saw beyond
The bedroll at his side;
Some folks through life stumble on
But Mitch--he found his stride.

PREVIEW FLASHES...PREVIEW FLASHES...PREVIEW FLASHES...PREVIEW

HOMELESS INDEPENDENCE DAY DRAWS HUNDREDS, NATIONAL PRESS
HOMELESS MARCHERS ON THE MALL, SONGS, SPEECHES, SUNSHINE

..... "Fight Back," urged Gerald Waldrin from Oakland's Union of the Homeless; Pam spoke of the Oakland homeless taking back Old Man's Park via actions at the Hyatt Regency: "we don't back down." Curtis Bray spoke of Berkeley activists successfully defeating a Sleeping Ban there, fighting trumped up burglary charges for taking over an abandoned building, securing an injunction against destruction of homeless property in People's Park, and fighting to reopen the low-income Berkeley Inn.

Ann Arnold of the local Women's Intl League for Peace and Freedom asked for fair laws and first amendment rights for all in an area of reconciliation. Dr. Michael Zinn, now a local but recently from Orange County living out of his van, described his swift spiral downward into homelessness, even for professional people.

"Sharin'" Sherry Conable identified our home as Planet Earth and spoke of the painful and pressing priority to establish a safe place to sleep and keep one's possessions. Reportedly once a police-hassled long-haired hippy, former Mayor Bruce Van Allen noted "we can't say 'stay awake until we change the system,'" but urged a broad alliance and consensus to break the Santa Cruz deadlock and a march for allies not futile demands. Singer Mark Levy reprised his 1989 hit, "30 Days in the County Jail"--the saga of Slyshoes Sandy Loranger, who went to jail for serving food at the Town Clock last summer....

C O M I N G I N S T R E E T S H E E T # 7 5

...Announcements....What's Inside....Late Flashes: Police Strike at July 4 Sleep-Out.....Heavy crackdown July 5: Flag seized, 4 Trials,...Homeless Independence Day report.....Radio debate, background to July 4 demo.....June 25: police renew war on Homeless Table.....June 13: homeless action reclaims property.....Courtroom Crtwheels: Denny's vs. Linda the Lark.....Maddog Mulligan's Greedy Gavel....Parker Takes Dive in Battery Charge.....Hennig/Hobson Affair Hits Courts.....First Sleeping Ban Appeal Filed.....Permits for Speech? Sandy Says No.....Camping Tickets Flood Courts....Council Disruption? No Contest.....Kitchenquest Mary Flies Away.....More Hennig Mischief at Homeless Table.....Midnight Mike Wipes the Slate clean.....Saga of the Homeless Hit List.....Cobwebs on the Concrete: Crackdown at Council Time?.....Hennig & Townsend on Cigarette Patrol.....Moonrise Mike Caught Handing Out Flyers.....Bob Bagged Boofing and Bumping.....Updates: Govt-funded vandals hit homeless campsite.....The Press and the May 30th Protest....Scribner Park: Still on the Yuppie menu!.....Disappearing benches, disappearing people?.....Moonrise Mike--hard-line to the end.....Calamity Jane--bed-ridden but unbowed.....San Jose honchos run off homeless riverfolks.....Page torn from the homeless library.....Eulogies: We remember Bob Levy...and more!

COMING JULY 12TH: STREET SHIT #75: 36+ pages of news, satire, updates, cartoons, clippings, and other yummys. On sale soon at your local Homeless Table (\$2 to buy, free to borrow! The issue has been fully written, but only needs to be pasted up. Read it and weep; read it and giggle. Read it!

STREET SHEET

#75

July 13, 1990

Friday

"Bed is the boon for me!
It's well to bake and sweep.
But hear the word of old Lizette:
It's better than all to sleep.

--Agnes Lee, *Old Lizette on Sleep*

cough up \$3 or
borrow & return

Biggest Issue Ever!

62 Pages! 25 Footnotes! 1 Unpaid Ad!

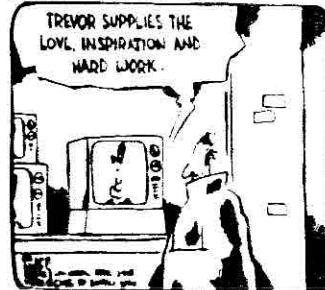
***** IN THIS ISSUE *****

- ON-THE-SPOT REPORT FROM THE FIRST HOMELESS CONGRESS
- POLICE TARGET BATHROBESPIERRE AT JULY 4TH SLEEP-OUT
- HOMELESS TABLE HIT WITH 4 "PUBLIC NUISANCE" CITES
- SANTA BARBARA 'PEACE WALK' FLAG SEIZED BY SCPD
- COURT GIVES POLICE BLANK CHECK TO SEIZE BEDDING
- FRIDAY THE 13TH ARRESTS AT HOMELESS TABLE
- DEMAND FOR LEGAL SLEEPING PLACE GROWS
- COURTROOM CAROUSEL, UPDATES, EULOGIES, & MORE

HYPOCRISY, U.S.A.

The California town of Santa Cruz—which has announced itself a "free port of Nicaragua," bars visits by U.S. Navy ships on the grounds that they are "part of the Pentagon war machine," and refuses to host the Miss California contest because it is "sexist"—jailed a local woman because she fed homeless people. The town's official policy is to discourage the homeless from staying in the city

← From March 1990 Pent house →



ANNOUNCEMENTS.....ANNOUNCEMENTS.....ANNOUNCEMENTS

.....Saturday July 14 2 PM In front of the Police Station and City Hall Street Tribunal Reviewing Police Abuses Bring Grievances, Help, Ideas, and Lemonade. Mistreated by the Bassett-hounds? Want to join Copwatch? Info: Robert L. 427-4533.

.....Monday July 16 5:30 PM SAN FRANCISCO Civic Center Plaza Legal Rally to Support Homeless Rights followed by CD Campout. Supported by Food-Not-Bombs, ACT-UP, Coalition on Homelessness, Oakland Union of the Homeless, and others. Contact Jane at 415-621-4606.

.....Wednesday July 18 12 PM-2 PM Mental Health Advocacy Board meets at Emeline St County Complex, Bldg. F. Public Comments near the end of the meeting.

.....Wednesday July 18 6 PM Legal Campground Community meets back of the River St. Shelter at "A Free Meal" (Hiway 1 & Hiway 9) to review first informal negotiations with mayor.

.....Thursday July 19 9 PM Emergency Benefit Concert for FOOD-NOT-BOMBS at 6th St. Rendezvous in SAN FRANCISCO. Bands include Torso, Medicine Men, Six Deep, and Horton Heard. (FNB folks and food truck were arrested by police last week)

Council rejects shelter request

6/13/96
By MARK BERGSTROM SC
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — The City Council let it be known Tuesday that it is not interested in providing emergency shelter this summer for anyone other than families.

The issue arose when Councilman Don Lane brought forth a request from the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program for funding to continue providing shelter for the homeless this summer.

The Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program has operated for several winters, providing overnight facilities in a number of churches. That program traditionally ends at the end of April.

Because of a larger-than-ever number of homeless this year, the program decided to offer at least 15 beds through the summer, according to Director Andrew Morin.

At the end of the winter 1989 program, 20 people were staying in the church shelters, he told the council. At the end of this winter, he said, more than 100 people were using the program.

But, Morin said, it quickly has become apparent that the 15 beds for summer are woefully inadequate. He came to ask for the city's help to double the number of beds.

Councilman John Mahaney asked if the city's efforts at providing emergency shelter weren't acting to draw in people from elsewhere in the county, such as Scotts Valley or Capitola.

Morin said the homeless don't congregate in Scotts Valley "because there is no place to" and they don't hang around Capitola because, he alleged, the police there drive them to the city limits.

When questioned about that accusation, Morin said his information came from the homeless themselves.

Councilman Joe Ghio said the fact that the homeless shy away from Scotts Valley and Capitola indicates that those cities need to do more. The fact that they're welcome in Santa Cruz, he said, indicated that the city's programs do, in fact, draw people to them.

Councilman Lane said one reason he brought the shelter program's request to Tuesday's meeting was that a recent study on the homeless recommended that sufficient shelter is needed so that no one has to sleep outdoors, in violation of the city's camping ban.

Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt said the council's policy had been to ensure that no one had to sleep out in the elements during winter. She said she was not interested in changing that policy to address the spring, summer and fall months.

Wormhoudt said she was more concerned that the report indicated that 235 children needed shelter and were sleeping in cars or out in the open.

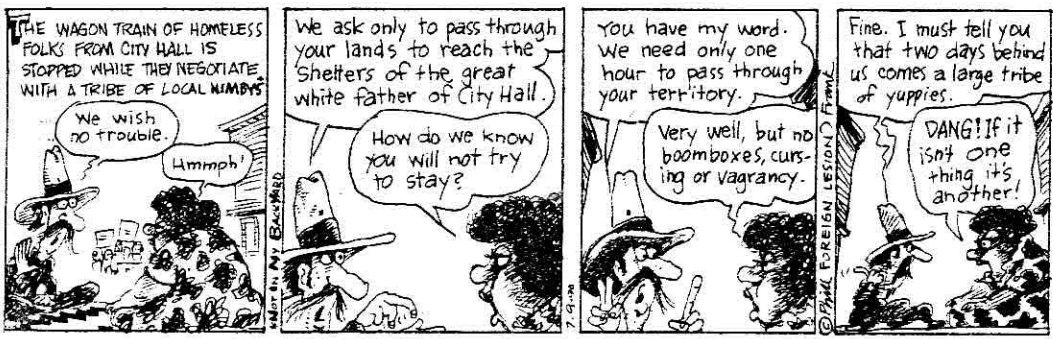
"That is absolutely intolerable," Wormhoudt said.

WHAT'S INSIDE :

- p. 1....Announcements.
- p. 2....What's Inside.
- p. 3....Police Strike at July 4 Sleep-Out.
- p. 4....Heavy crackdown July 5: Flag seized, 4 Trials.
- p. 6....Homeless Independence Day report.
- p. 10....Radio debate, background to July 4 demo.
- p. 12....June 25: police renew war on Homeless Table.
- p. 15....June 13: homeless action reclaims property.
- p. 19....Courtroom Cartwheels:
Denny's vs. Linda.
Maddog Mulligan's Greedy Gavel.
- p. 20.....Parker Takes Dive in Battery Charge.
- p. 21.....Hennig/Hobson Affair Hits Courts.
First Sleeping Ban Appeal Filed.
- p. 22.....Permits for Speech? Sandy Says No.
Camping Tickets Flood Courts.
- p. 23.....Council Disruption? No Contest.
Kitchenquest Mary Flies Away.
More Hennig Mischief at Homeless Table.
- p. 24.....Midnight Mike Wipes the Slate clean.
- p. 27.....Saga of the Homeless Hit List.
- p. 28.....Cobwebs on the Concrete:
Crackdown at Council Time?
Hennig & Townsend on Cigarette Patrol.
- p. 29.....Moonrise Mike Caught Handing Out Flyers.
Bob Bagged Boofing and Bumping.
- p. 30.....Updates:
Govt-funded vandals hit homeless campsite.
The Press and the May 30th Protest.
- p. 31.....Scribner Park: Still on the Yuppie menu?
Disappearing benches, disappearing people?
- p. 32.....Moonrise Mike--hard-line to the end.
Calamity Jane--bed-ridden but unbowed.
- p. 33.....San Jose honchos run off homeless riverfolks.
Page torn from the homeless library.
- p. 34.....Eulogies:
We remember Bob Levy.
Mitch Snyder on the 4th of July rally.
- p. 35.....Jane Imler remembers Mitch.
Bathrobespierre's tribute to Snyder.
- p. 37.....Latest Flashes:
Court oks cop blanketbusting!
Friday the 13th: Arrests at Table resume
- p. 42.....Coming Up:
What might be happening next issue.

LATEST FLASHES : TURN TO P. 37.

Morin said the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program takes families in emergency situations in the winter, but is really not set up to accommodate them because the location of the shelter changes nightly. Wormhoudt said he had been told that families stayed away from the program because parents were concerned about the safety of their children due to the client mix. Councilman John Laird proposed that the city consider a request for funding during its budget deliberations, if the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program wants to operate a summer program for families only. The council unanimously passed that resolution. The Interfaith Satellite Program handles the overflow from the city's 36-bed River Street shelter, which operates year-round.



16 TICKETS AT 4TH OF JULY SLEEP-OUT; BATHROBESPIERRE BAGGED!
HOMELESS CONGRESS ENDS WITH TRADITIONAL LOW-KEY MIDNIGHT NAP

Peacekeeping monitors were themselves illegally asleep when Sgt. Sealy's slumberslayer squad arrived at the Homeless Table in the wee hours of July 5 to send another 16 into the costly courtroom tango of Sleeping Ban trials. Monitors Paul Brindel and Sherry Conable, part of the group that formed to "defuse confrontations" during the July 4th Homeless Congress, were slumbering in their vehicles, according to fellow monitor "Slyshoes" Sandy Loranger. Slyshoes hurriedly awakened them when the gang of public-funded pillow-snatchers arrived on the scene. The two midnight-catnappers were not questioned or cited by the four ticket-wielding nightstalkers'.

Bathrobespierre Robert, less fortunate, was clapped into irons and hauled off for "inadequate identification" when he refused to give any more details than his name and address. "You have all that information already," groaned the rumpled activist, "and you know who I am." "One refuses to identify himself," radioed in "Bust 'em and Book 'em" Baker. "Is he local?" asked the unforgiving squawk box. "It's Robert Norse," replied the triumphant lawman. "Take him in," said Sleepbuster Central.

Other demonstrators got the usual "sleeping without an income" citations from the band of blueshirts. Familiar faces included Jabberwocky Jay (reportedly about to retire from active duty as Head Homeless Tabluh-teer), Rodent, Stormin' Norman, Badlands Barbara, and many other sidewalk huggers.

Bathrobespierre was also charged with a more serious misdemeanor--"impeding an officer"--for his refusal to answer further questions (with a possible penalty of 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine). After being released some hours later, the unpopular agitator was spotted by Lt. Bartle hitchhiking near the courthouse and given yet another citation in what seemed to be another vain attempt to cut short his carefree life of crime. "Can you spell 'harassment' and 'selective enforcement'?" grumbled the ticket-laden activist. "Tickets...for hitchhiking...in Santa Cruz?"

Why end shelter program?

Recently, I had the privilege of attending an open house at the River Street Shelter. As the clock neared 5 p.m., I watched as an eclectic group of homeless started gathering across the street from an evening meal.

Upon questioning those around me, I learned that I was watching the Interfaith Satellite Shelter program in action. Since November, the program has been providing 75 spaces in Santa Cruz and 15 in the south county, spaces for the homeless to eat and if desired, to be transported to various churches that provide a place to sleep for the night.

This was a wonderful service to the homeless community. Why then was this program drastically cut May 1?

Instead of 75 spaces, there will be 15. Fifteen legal spaces and hundreds of "illegal" sleepers. Please, let's find adequate shelter for our homeless. Let's see an increase, not a decrease, in worthwhile programs such as the Satellite Shelter.

Janice Playford
Aptos

S.S.M. N. 6-4
HOMELESS AID DOWN: The number of homeless welfare applicants has dramatically dropped since a policy went into effect to give them room and board instead of quick cash, Alameda County officials report. Applications for homeless aid are down by two-thirds, Pat Engelhard, assistant director of social services, said Tuesday. But Engelhard warned that the figures are too preliminary to predict a trend. She said the number of non-homeless people seeking assistance also is down, cutting total inquiries about a \$340-a-month grant from 250 a day to about half that number.

Homeless are used as our scapegoats

It seems that throughout history, during times of economic stress the search for a scapegoat is promoted

and encouraged. This time it looks like the "homeless" are the chosen group to be the brunt of anger, blame, and dehumanization. From this stance violence and other forms of abuse can be rationalized and justified.

The sad thing is that the stereotyping of all homeless as welfare recipients and "bums" who don't have jobs is totally erroneous. A large segment are families who, through loss of job, illness or other unforeseen circumstances, find themselves in this predicament for the first time; there are others who work but, due to high rents, are still unable to afford housing.

As a supposedly Christian nation, maybe we should remember the teachings of Jesus: "I was naked and you clothed me; I was hungry and you fed me; as you have done it to the least of these you have done it for me." 6/15/90 - Melodie Barclay
Mountain View

Prevalent Problems

Editor — The picture above the headline "Merchants Up in Arms About Homeless" (Chronicle, May 18) captures and capsules two prevalent problems in our city. The mendicant is dwarfed by the huge display of T-shirts found on every available street, ostensibly funding projects for arcane religious or missionary institutions.

In a recent meeting of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, the Park and Rec Department was said to be looking favorably to granting permission to multiple locations in public parks for groups dispensing food and merchandise. This means more T-shirts and junk food and litter. The coalition voted to ask Park and Rec to postpone any decision, to allow public input.

If the mayor can't solve the problem of vagrants and homeless, he could improve the image of the city by denying access of card tables of junk merchandise to the streets of San Francisco, particularly downtown. 5/12/90 SPChrom

JEANNETTE SPERRY
San Francisco

1 Convicting those in vehicles of "sleepcrime" is harder than nailing those without cars--since the first requires proving that the suspect was actually asleep. Sidewalk or outdoors sleepcriminals can be sent up the river for simply having bedding laid out.

1. Does California law give homeless people the right to vote:

Yes. In Collier v. Menzel, the California Court of Appeal held that homeless people may list as their home any place they normally sleep, for example parks, shelters, street corners.

-tips from the
California Homeless
Coalition

Let the street people contribute

I work with a project called A Free Meal, which provides an environment for the homeless to work together to serve an evening meal to anyone in need. Other than myself, the program is entirely staffed and run by "street people," with a dedication and level of responsibility that would be envied by most employers.

I learn constantly from the people that work and eat at the Meal. They are endlessly practical and resourceful, perhaps because they have not had the luxury of a life of comfortable wastefulness that many of us share. The tolerance and compassion that they exhibit, and the support that they provide for each other create a warm, happy atmosphere that encourages cooperation. By listening to the homeless and treating them with dignity and respect, I am treated to a wealth of common sense, ideas and suggestions that make the program a delight to coordinate. Rude or inappropriate behavior is practically non-existent and is discouraged by peer pressure alone, not by overt expressions of authority.

For years I have seen unsuccessful attempts to discourage the street people from congregating on the Pacific Garden Mall, usually characterized by an increase in police pressure. Far from solving the prob-

lem, the result has been to create a hostile, cold environment for both shoppers and homeless alike. Perhaps we need to focus on including the homeless in the rebuilding of downtown, and allowing them to contribute in a positive way to the process, instead of labeling them as a "problem" and allowing them no input to the solution.

Hasn't five or six years of this been enough? Isn't it time for some sort of reasonable dialogue to be established? We might as well — nothing else has worked.

Karen Gillette
Bonny Doon

5-25-90 S.C.S

"Many Miles"
Mike Wilson from
Santa Barbara
→



SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL MAY 18, 90
Let's look at each other and smile

If a problem is only a solution to a question that has not been asked, let us answer this question: What valuable resource are street people?

Think about this question as we consider what the homeless have asked for. They have asked for a camp site, for a place to shower, a place to receive phone messages so those that can work become employable. Can people with such simple needs be a resource? Can they lead the way from nuclear arms and consumer waste? In part, they can. But only if we remember no one is a paragon and no group can be rigidly defined. But in general, these folks like to play and what they believe in and find valuable, they consider play, although some of what they willingly do is work.

They would rather trade than be paid. They often do not have the same values as people who quest for security and material goods. With purple hair, ragged clothes, they may be frightening and yet when spoken to, the majority are cogent and polite — when spoken to politely. They have as much problem relating to a person wearing suit and tie as those who wear suits and ties have with leather and chains. Santa Cruzans should be able to see passed uniforms and relax. Everyone benefits when even one person's blood pressure comes down. Wouldn't we be a happy town if we all looked each other in the eyes gently and smiled?

Dr. Jeri Rose
Santa Cruz

NEW COP THEFTS, NUISANCE RAIDS, DAY-AFTER TICKETS AT TABLE.

4 MORE \$10,000+ JURY TRIALS ON HORIZON IN FLAG SEIZURE CASE

Thursday afternoon (July 5), Hobohunter Hennig succumbed to "harassment frenzy" and returned to the scene of his past crimes at the Table to threaten tablewatchers there. With no other safe and supervised place to store homeless possessions, the Table has become a default security area for folks tired of carrying everything around on their backs. Hennig announced a white-glove inspection later that afternoon, and homeless demonstrators did a clean-up job on the area.

Unmollified, the sardonic sergeant returned around 4 PM with head bumbuster, Police Chief Jack Bassett watching from nearby. As Hennig and his henchman did another ripoff of sleeping bags, blankets, food containers, and personal items, Moonrise Mike Carreiro was informed he faced a jury trial and misdemeanor charges of Public Nuisance for tending the table.

Though no Homeless Tabluh-teeer has yet been convicted of Public Nuisance, the police have been using the charge as the latest pretext for stripping homeless demonstrators of their possessions in hopes of driving them back into the bushes or down the road. This last winter, local flatfeet became notorious for taking sleeping bags in the dead of winter as "evidence of camping" or "abandoned." When such callous tactics roused twitches of disapproval among some of the judges, police raised their sights to mass seizures of survival gear, literature, and homeless tables using an 1872 Public Nuisance law.

Given the unresolved judicial status of the vague charge, some hoped that a more reasonable SCPD policy was in the offing. Hennig and Bassett apparently decided to burn their bridges and file new Nuisance charges, possibly angered by the July 4 homeless demonstration and emboldened by the larger

trollbuster counterdemo.

Also bagged in this "rob and roust" expedition were the suitcases and sleeping gear of Badlands Barbara Maez. When Hennig presented her with a Nuisance ticket and verbal abuse the next day, Barbara went to the police station to complain. She first attempted unsuccessfully to retrieve her property and then sought to make a verbal complaint to the watch commander. Hoarse and anxious, she was denied an audience by Sgt. "Goofy" Aluffi, who refused to talk to her unless she agreed to be alone with him. Feeling she needed a friend with her, Badlands shrugged and filed a written complaint, and a \$2000 claims form with the City Clerk.

Another victim of Hennig's hunting expedition was "Many Miles" Mike Wilson². Turning his hungry eye on Wilson's shopping cart, cross, and American flag, Hennig made what may be the fatal mistake of treating Wilson's property like trash, impounding it, and embroiling Wilson in a legal struggle by awarding him one of the sergeant's prized Nuisance tickets. "Many Miles" and other Santa Barbara militants feel very strongly about the flag--which was apparently carried across the country several times in homeless peace walks, and is considered to be a priceless relic by many.

On July 6 Hennig spiced up the sadistic sport of robbing the homeless of goods and rights. On meeting Jabberwocky Jay in court in yet another of the endless hearings on Hennig's Jan 26 Nuisance ticket, Hennig presented Jay with yet another Nuisance ticket for July 5. Though Jay had not even been present at the Table the previous day when Hennig made his raid, Hennig presented Jay with yet another taxpayer-funded slap across the face at the very hearing where Hennig was being called to justify his warrantless Jan. 26 seizure of Jay's property.

Hennig's unspoken humor was cruel and relentless: "Give up and give in; even at the very moment you challenge the illegality of my first Nuisance ticket, I'll give you another...and another...until you trade in your first amendment rights and human dignity for a bit of peace." Facing dozens of harassment camping tickets, and the exhausting Jan 26 Nuisance charge, Jay was not amused at Hennig's bully-boy "ticket humor."

7-7-90 R.P.
■■■ DEMONSTRATIONS IN SANTA CRUZ. Demonstrators on opposite sides of the homelessness issue chose July 4 to express their views in downtown Santa Cruz.

At Santa Cruz City Hall, about 700 people showed up for a "Take Back Our Town" demonstration against what one speaker called the "bums, freeloaders and squatters."

At the County Governmental Center, about 300 people demonstrated against the city's ban on camping and began a march through downtown Santa Cruz.

The demonstrations were peaceful except for a couple of shouting matches that erupted near the homeless people's march and rally.

■■■ Register - Pajaronian
7-7-80



2 Wilson, a Santa Barbara Homeless Rights Coalition activist, finally completed his nearly 300 mile "Walk Against Sleeping Bans" on the early morning of July 4th. D.C. activist Mitch Snyder--found dead in his room Sunday, walked the first few miles with Wilson's group in Santa Barbara in mid-April. The walk was abruptly interrupted 12 miles out of Santa Cruz in mid-June when 4 CHP cars surrounded Wilson and arrested him for "walking on the highway." Deported to Ventura for an old warrant several days later, Wilson returned to speak at Homeless Independence Day.

2. How do homeless people describe the place where they sleep?

If they know the address of the place, such as a shelter or park, use that address. Otherwise, describe the place, using the nearest cross streets.

HOMELESS INDEPENDENCE DAY DRAWS HUNDREDS, NATIONAL PRESS HOMELESS MARCHERS ON THE MALL, SONGS, SPEECHES, SUNSHINE

Around 10:30 AM three buses--from San Francisco, Berkeley-Oakland, and Santa Rosa, rolled into view next to San Lorenzo Park, their rainbow of passengers spilling out onto the morning grass. Locals across the street were able to feast their eyes on more black faces in one place than usually show in a week, adding some color to Santa Cruz's typically pasty mainstream.

Gathering in a circle to thrash out start-time for the March to the Mall, organizers and observers slipped into heated debate. Charges that the march had been "captured" by newcomer liberals were met by countercharges that showboat local militants wanted dangerous confrontations with "Abusin' Heart's" Buffoons. Terry Messman of the Oakland Union of the Homeless urged the group to "stand their ground and not back down;" Keystone Karen and Bubbah Brian, and Jabberwocky Jay put a high priority on keeping a safe distance from the the raucous redshirts.

As disputants reached agreement on march time, motorized battalions of "the hairdresser's hundreds" came rolling down the street sporting miniature plastic American flags which some wags insisted were "Made in Taiwan." Across Dakota Avenue stood police chief "Bastinado" Bassett slicked up in a rare blue uniformed appearance, toting badge and gun for all to see. By his side, a man who may have become his favorite henchman--Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig--the two of them blandly observing the procession of passing provocateurs. Others imagined they almost seemed to be reviewing the troops as the motorcade of red-shirted rednecks rolled past, honking and shouting. (cont.)

Suits against L.A. sheriff's deputies cost \$8.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Lawsuits filed by people hurt in confrontations with Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies have cost taxpayers \$8.5 million in settlements and jury awards over three years.

In the past year, 151 brutality lawsuits were filed against sheriff's deputies, a total estimated to be nearly twice that of five years ago, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Sheriff Sherman Block has acknowledged that brutality complaints are a concern for his department.

He blamed the spread of gang-style violence in neighborhoods patrolled by his 7,000-deputy force and an increasingly litigious reaction to violent confrontations.

Block denied that a so-called "code of silence" exists among deputies, which intimidates or inhibits officers offended by brutality from reporting such incidents. The issue has been addressed in workshops for deputies, he said.

Half the deputies involved in major lawsuits have been sued in the past for allegedly using excessive force. One training officer was

'The sheriff's department (is) letting deputies go out into the community and beat people senseless and virtually nothing is happening to them.'

San Jose Mercury News 5-28-90 Attorney Thomas Barham

sued 10 times in 10 years, the Times said.

Block insisted officers named in several suits are not necessarily guilty of misconduct.

"We're not going to sacrifice deputies at the altar of public relations," he said.

The Times drew its findings from the records of lawsuits and settlements or jury awards for three years ending in September 1989. Among other things, the newspaper noted:

✓ Of the 228 lawsuits filed against the sheriff's department in 1989, 151, or 66 percent, alleged excessive force.

✓ County attorneys said two-thirds of lawsuits filed against the department in any year are for excessive force. Using that rule, the Times said brutality suits

against the department have about doubled in the past five years.

✓ About 22 brutality lawsuits are filed annually for each 1,000 sheriff's deputies. Comparatively, 18 are filed each year per 1,000 officers in the Los Angeles Police Department.

✓ Excessive-force cases accounted for three-fourths of all major legal awards and settlements involving the sheriff's department during the period studied. There were 61 major payouts, ranging from \$20,000 to \$1.75 million.

The recipient of the largest award was Wilma Franklyn, 55, who was shot in the stomach during a narcotics raid on her 60-acre Lake Sherwood ranch in 1981.

She claimed deputies crashed into her home unannounced, shot

at her and kept shooting at her after she crawled into a closet to hide. She said she was dragged from the closet by her heels.

Deputies claimed she shot first and kept shooting after she crawled into the closet. A drug operation was uncovered at the ranch, but Franklyn was not linked to it. A jury awarded her \$2.4 million, and a settlement of \$1.75 million was reached in July 1989.

A Newbury Park salesman was clubbed by two Malibu Station deputies until his legs were shattered. Robert Whealon had been stopped for suspected drunken driving. He sued, and the case was settled for \$500,000.

Former movie studio carpenter William Randall was left permanently disabled with back injuries

and had six operations after he was allegedly kicked by a deputy for not following instructions quickly enough during a Marina Del Rey traffic stop in 1982. He also settled for \$500,000.

"The sheriff's department really needs to be put on the griddle," said attorney Thomas Barham, a former sheriff's lieutenant who specializes in police misconduct cases. "They are letting deputies go out into the community and beat people senseless and virtually nothing is happening to them."

A 1985 internal study cited excessive force as an ethical problem needing attention. That resulted, Block said, in a \$300,000 program requiring every deputy to attend a daylong seminar on ethics, including ways to avoid fights.

Block said there also is a pattern of violence-prone officers getting hired away from the department into better-paying private jobs as investigators or high-technology communications work.

He said other deputies have grumbled, "Well geez, I guess you have to go out and get enough complaints" to get desirable jobs.

City attorney, take note!

Bay homeless quadrupled since 1987

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER - 5/16/90

EXAMINER STAFF REPORT

Nearly 200,000 people in the nine Bay Area counties were homeless at some time last year in the Bay Area, a fourfold increase from 1987, according to a study released Wednesday by a homeless support group.

And that count covers only those people who have had some contact with social agencies and does not include "individuals and families living in parks, cars and under bridges" in the Bay Area.

The study was prepared by HomeBase, a regional homeless support center operated by the Association of Bay Area Governments and Public Advocates, a public service law firm. It is based on state agency surveys and covers the year ended June 30, 1989.

According to the study, "as many as 189,927 (Bay Area) people experienced an episode of homelessness for some period ... between July 1988 and June 1989." Included in that figure are more than 40,000 homeless children.

The number of homeless families in the region, according to the report, may be in excess of 20,000.

The study shows a fourfold increase from a 1987 Public Advocates study, which reported 45,000 to 47,000 homeless people in the Bay Area.

S.F. State was hosting the Bay Area Social Services Consortium Conference on Homeless Families and Children, on Wednesday, where the study was to be a prime topic of discussion.

Agnos to Oust Homeless From Civic Center

S.F. Chron 5/13/90
By Marc Sandalow
Chronicle Staff Writer

Taking aim at one of San Francisco's most visible problems, Mayor Art Agnos' office announced yesterday that the homeless will no longer be allowed to camp at Civic Center Plaza.

The announcement was made in conjunction with the opening of a new homeless center south of Market Street, fulfilling a pledge the mayor made last year to begin moving the homeless off the streets.

"Agnos said all along that he would take some action when the alternatives were in place," said Myra Snyder, deputy mayor for health and human services. "This meets his criteria of a humane and decent alternative."

Moving the homeless out would also end months of criticism of Agnos for failing to enforce laws against sleeping overnight in public parks.

The collection of indigents—mentally ill, immigrants, drug-

users and runaways who have used among the park's olive groves for more than two years will be given until Thursday to move out. After Thursday, police will begin citing and arresting individuals who make the plaza their home. San Francisco police Captain Dennis Martel said he expects the plaza to be free of its homeless lodgers next weekend.

Estimates of the number of homeless people in the park vary. A police count at 5 a.m. yesterday showed 168 individuals in the immediate area. A homeless advocacy group counted 358 individuals just an hour later.

Workers Intimidated

Whatever the number, ridding the area of the homeless encampment is expected to transform the plaza, which has become a popular gathering spot for street people.

Office employees who work near the plaza, which is located in front of City Hall and the Civic

Auditorium, avoid the area, although violent crime is not a frequent problem. Many say they are intimidated by drug use, drinking and panhandling.

"People have a right to use their parks without fear and harassment," said Supervisor Bill Maher, who has long criticized the mayor for not moving quickly to clean the park. "This is long overdue."

Informing the Homeless

City social workers will begin delivering the message to leave the park this weekend in a manner consistent with Agnos' careful approach to the homeless.

Park residents will be encouraged to drop in at a nearby homeless shelter at Polk and Geary streets, where counselors will screen clients. Transportation will be provided to a variety of programs, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers.

A second homeless shelter, located at Fifth and Bryant streets and paid for in part by earthquake

emergency funds, will open Monday. The facility contains 110 beds and will be expanded to 200 beds by the end of the summer.

Both homeless facilities offer cots, showers, meals, medical care and limited storage for belongings. Ultimately, the centers will be expanded to include an array of services including education and job training, housing assistance, mailboxes and laundry facilities.

Permanent Housing Sought

"The whole idea is to move people from these transitional centers into permanent housing," said Bob Prentice, the mayor's homeless coordinator.

Warnings to leave the Civic Center Plaza will be issued through Thursday. Police will then be told to enforce the city's laws against lodging in a public park. Agnos' staff said the plaza is the only place in the city where that law is not currently enforced.

Martel said violators will be cited and ultimately jailed if they refuse to leave. But he stressed that the matter will be handled with "great sensitivity."

"We're not going to go in there with a siege mentality," he said. "But if they absolutely refuse to comply, we will take enforcement action."

Reaction of Homeless

The news of the crackdown was greeted with great skepticism by the homeless in the park, who said they had heard such threats before.

"I've heard that every week since I've been here," said 39-year-old Bill Wagner, an out-of-work machinist who has lived in the plaza since October.

Wagner and others who live in the plaza predicted that few will take advantage of the shelters, complaining that they must give up too much freedom to stay there.

"They treat you like a 2-year-old," Wagner said.

He said that he will find someplace else to stay and that he expects most of the plaza's squatters to scatter to other parts of the city, where it is estimated that as many as 3,000 homeless individuals sleep on the streets.

'Another Doorway'

"We'll just move out of here and find another doorway to sleep in," Wagner said.

The mayor's staff said their efforts will have failed if the homeless refuse to take advantage of the new shelter.

"We don't want people to scatter (to other parts of the city)," said Deputy Mayor Snyder. "We want to show people we have something for them. We are offering every opportunity for people to comply."

SAN FRANCISCO

► PANHANDLING PROBLEM: Mayor Agnos is sending letters to local merchants assuring them that laws against panhandling will be enforced.

He said the letters are an attempt to quell fears that the homeless are driving away customers.

Agnos' spokesman Scott Shafter said the mayor's office is in the process of sending letters to about 150 merchant associations with the message that the homeless must obey laws.

The letter was sparked by complaints from merchants about vagrants loitering in their doorways.

SF Chron 5/14/90

Group of 50 homeless vows to defy crackdown in S.F.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS
July 6, 1990

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Shaded by the olive trees of Civic Center Plaza, Jack Howard reclined on a bed piled with heavy blankets while a 2-month-old kitten nuzzled her chin.

The 30-year-old homeless woman says she will be in exactly the same spot when police begin a crackdown today on people living in the government center.

"I've lived in Civic Center 8½ months. I lost my home in the (October) earthquake," Howard said. "I'm not moving unless they give us some alternative campsite."

As a woman, Howard does not have access to the two "multiservice shelters" the city took over this week. The two shelters, for now, admit only men. And she doesn't want to move into one of the older shelters or a converted hotel the city is offering women.

"I'm safer in this park than in one of those 'hot-line' rooms," Howard said, referring to the onetime hotel rooms the city has available. She said occupants often are bothered by "crack" cocaine dealers, rats and mice.

The city takeover of the multiservice shelters coincides with the mayor's order that police begin arresting people sleeping or keeping belongings in the plaza. The centers, operated for the city by church groups, combine shelter with such services as drug and alcohol treatment and job counseling.

The mayor ordered the crackdown to begin Thursday, but police said they would not start making arrests until today at a time they would not disclose.

Homeless advocates criticized the city's shelter plan, saying the 110 new beds the city has made available won't accommodate the up to 350 homeless who sleep in the park.

Howard said she is one of a group of 50 who will remain camped in Civic Center despite the expected wave of arrests.

Others, who said they don't want to face jail, lined up for vouchers handed out by outreach workers in Civic Center Plaza on Thursday morning. Many complained that there were not enough

tickets to go around. Deputy Mayor Myra Snyder said Thursday that all of Civic Center's homeless will have access to the vouchers, which admit homeless people to an intake center that in turn refers them to a shelter or hotel room.

Snyder said some people have to wait because the workers only were handing out 50 at a time in order to keep an accurate count.

"I prefer not to sleep out here; I prefer to go to the shelter," said Greg Hayes, 35, who has been living on and off in Civic Center since he was released from San Quentin Prison in December. He said he served 54 months for an armed robbery.

Hayes, who picked up a voucher Thursday morning, said he wants to return to work as a carpenter once he has a roof over his head. He said he's stayed away from existing shelters because of the dirt and violence, and hopes the new shelter will be cleaner.

"You're better off sleeping out here than some of those shelters," he said. "This is the first opportunity to get into something decent."

Homeless advocates charge that the "cleanup" program will force 215 people already staying in one of the two shelters out on the streets to make way for the displaced Civic Center homeless. The new policy also will break up couples and force many people into jails, doorways or alleys, they said.

In protest, the Coalition on Homelessness plans to "flood the system," bringing in homeless people from other areas to the Civic Center to overwhelm the new shelters, said the group's Josh Brandon.

The city's plan unfairly targets the homeless of Civic Center, while others throughout the city desire shelter as well, he said. The two shelters already were filled Thursday, while scores of homeless who want temporary housing remain in Civic Center, he said.

"We simply want to give people who want to get off the streets the opportunity to get off the streets," Brandon said.

Welcome to another Art Motel



- ROB MORSE

THIS IS a big day for Art Agnos and the homeless. If all goes according to plan, the homeless in the Civic Center will take up residence in Agnos' new multiservice centers. But if homeless advocates have their way, all won't go according to plan.

Josh Brandon of the Coalition on Homelessness says, "We plan to flood the system." By that he meant bringing in homeless to the Civic Center from other places around San Francisco and overwhelming the new shelters with their limited beds. Look, I don't get it either.

Brandon and his fellow homeless advocate Paul Boden lectured me for saying that the multiservice centers were finished. Tuesday afternoon they took me on a tour of the one at Fifth and Bryant streets. We arrived just before the RCA television, which was to be installed somewhere in the temporary dorm containing 110 beds.

This joint will never make it in the Mobil Travel Guide, but it is a place to stay. The Civic Center gets fewer stars. The dorm upstairs isn't finished. The sprinklers haven't been installed for the mess hall downstairs. Counselors haven't been hired.

If all 110 beds are full the Fire Department won't let the drop-in center be used. Also, The City has yet to get the building up to seismic code, even though it's funded by earthquake-relief funds.

Still, as of now it's a clean place to sleep in bunk beds closer together than in basic training, and take a shower if the tanks hold out. The biggest gripe among the first guests of the center is that there is no smoking in the building.

Combine that with no loitering in front and they have to take a walk to the corner to smoke. And they say this place isn't set up yet to treat substance abuse.

The homeless aren't high in the polls right now, and they know it even if their advocates don't. The park may be a happening place to sleep, offering the freedom to enjoy all the pleasures the surgeon general warns against, but they're going to have to leave. They'll have to get used to Art Motels.

7/90 SF EXON

Arrested for panhandling to fill the stockpot: A Russian Orthodox priest named Father Thomas is one guy who makes San Francisco the kind of All-World place it is at its best moments. For more than a year Father Thomas has spent much of each day at the corner of Post and Powell soliciting money for his soup kitchen, which serves about 300 meals a day to the homeless in United Nations Plaza. On Wednesday, the gentle Father Thomas was arrested for panhandling.

One merchant on the block was shocked, saying, "He doesn't offend anybody, and he seems pleasant enough." Apparently the complaint came from a store that has been at that corner only a few days, "the new kids on the block," as a merchant calls them. (Father Thomas, the truest of Christians, didn't want the business named in this column). The police simply cited and admonished Father Thomas. "I can't emphasize enough how understanding and kind the cops were," he said. "The officer who arrested me apologized."

Father Thomas will move to the corner across Post Street next to the St. Francis so his regulars can find him. He doesn't want to make a big issue of his arrest. Let's just say that being arrested for panhandling to feed hundreds to save them from panhandling for food is ironic in a specifically Christian way. It's also very un-San Francisco.

SF EXON 6/10/90

(see p. for more)

Thanks for limiting disruptions

I would like to congratulate the City Council for limiting Robert Norse and his band of disruptive bums at city meetings.
This is a critical time in Santa Cruz. With all there is to be done, aggressive group behavior is total nonsense. Can you imagine what this city would be like without a camping ban? If in doubt, just check the Front Street post office.
Kay Geiger
Santa Cruz

516190
SC Sentinel

one of Norse's less ardent fans...

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Police arrested a man wanted for investigation of murder in Washington state after he allegedly pulled a gun on four homeless people Friday and shot one of them.
William DeWitt, 38, sought on a \$500,000 warrant in Seattle for the slaying of a man last week, was drinking beer in a bar a few minutes after the shooting in San Francisco's Tenderloin District when police arrested him, said Inspector Ken King.
King said witnesses told police that DeWitt walked up to a group

of four homeless people sitting on the street and pulled out a gun. DeWitt then allegedly pointed the gun at the men, told them "I could kill all of you," and walked away.
The men followed DeWitt, who then turned around and shot one of them, King said.
DeWitt then allegedly pointed the gun, a .25-caliber automatic, at another of the men, and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed and DeWitt fled, witnesses told police.
The wounded man, Roy Gonzales, 37, underwent surgery at San Francisco General Hospital for a wound to his chest, a nursing

supervisor said. He was in a stable condition.
DeWitt carried papers under a different identities and home addresses in Portland, Ore., and Bellevue, Wash., King said. DeWitt also was carrying a security officer badge that looked like a Los Angeles Police Department badge.
He was arrested on charges of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and several misdemeanor gun charges.
DeWitt is wanted in Seattle in connection with the killing of Mickey Miles, 30, on April 20 over a dispute about money, said Mark Amundson, Seattle police information officer.

Tent City Tweaks the Conscience of Paris

By Juliet Towhidi
Reuters 5-29-90

Paris
S.F. Chron
The aroma of cooked rice and the wail of infants float through the Parisian square, transformed into a minivillage by 48 African families evicted from places where they were squatting.
Three hundred people, half of them children, have been sleeping, eating and waiting in tents in the Place de la Reunion in the southeastern section of the French capital since May 2.
Youngsters play in a sand pit, old men sit around in the sun, and women draped in bright African dress toil over huge pots of rice and meat, their babies slung across their backs.



Elderly strollers feeding pigeons in the shady, tree-lined square gaze in bewilderment.
The occupation, coinciding with worries of a growing tide of racism in France, is a desperate measure by immigrant families who say they already have been evicted as many as four times and have nowhere else to go.
But it is also a protest against the city administration and its leader, right-wing Mayor Jacques Chirac.
"Chirac wants to create a city for the rich, with only expensive flats and businesses," said Maurice Momo of the Committee for the

Homeless, which organized the sit-in. "The poor, the immigrants, the Africans, they don't fit the image. So they are being pushed farther and farther out into the suburbs," he said.
Concerns about racism were brutally highlighted by the desecration earlier this month of a Jewish cemetery in Carpentras in southeast France. Vandals dragged a corpse from its grave, stuck a Star of David to its stomach and impaled it.
But Momo believes Third World immigrants, especially Africans, are the most common victims of racism.
Opinion polls show that 30 percent of voters support the anti-immigration policies of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front. These policies include forced repatriation.

The image of squatters as young drug addicts or derelicts is wrong, Momo says. More often, they are hard-working families who can no longer pay the rent, even for government-subsidized housing.
Chirac is determined to improve the city's image and has launched a program to spruce up old buildings and construct new ones. Momo says this means higher rents and more squatters. During the past three years, the number of sites occupied by squatters in the city has jumped from around 40 to 145, according to official statistics.
Determined not to be forgotten, the families say they will stay in the square until affordable permanent housing is found.
The city has offered them free

hotel rooms, but most have refused, saying they are fed up with being shunted about.
Officials think the families are being too demanding, given that squatting is technically illegal.
"They just can't demand to live in the city; it's not growing anymore. If we offer them lodgings in a suburb, they should accept, because it's all we have available," said Bernard Niquet, director of information at City Hall.
Every morning, men leave the crowded tents, which house up to four families each, for their jobs as road sweepers, plumbers or subway train drivers. The older children attend schools in the area.
"We're trying to live as normally as possible," one man said, "but it's not easy."

After a few minutes of impromptu catcalls back and forth, the Homeless demonstrators decided to abandon Busenhart's Barbarians to their own bigotry and marched to the front steps of the County Building to hear some eloquent words in the mid-day heat. Bathrobespierre Robert kicked off ceremonies by welcoming the rainbow crowd of visitors to Santa Cruz. Youthlover Yahsehweh described the hardships of trying to work while homeless for a middle-class white boy in Santa Cruz. Soulful George Soles from Sonoma, tireless organizer behind the whole rally, read a statement of support from Mitch Snyder (see p. 34.). "Fight Back," urged Gerald Waldrin from Oakland's Union of the Homeless; Pam spoke of the Oakland homeless taking back Old Man's Park via actions at the Hyatt Regency; "we don't back down." Curtis Bray spoke of Berkeley activists successfully defeating a Sleeping Ban there, fighting trumped up burglary charges for taking over an abandoned building, securing an injunction against destruction of homeless property in People's Park, and fighting to reopen the low-income Berkeley Inn. Ann Arnold of the local Women's Intl League for Peace and Freedom asked for fair laws and first amendment rights for all in an area of reconciliation. Dr. Michael Zinn, now a local but recently from Orange County living out of his van, described his swift spiral downward into homelessness, even for professional people. "Sharin" Sherry Conable identified our home as Planet Earth and spoke of the painful and pressing priority to establish a safe place to sleep and keep one's possessions. Reportedly once a police-hassled long-haired hippy, former Mayor Bruce Van Allen noted "we can't say 'stay awake until we change the system,'" but urged a broad alliance and consensus to break the Santa Cruz deadlock and a march for allies not futile demands. Binger Mark Levy reprised his 1989 hit, "30 Days in the County Jail"--the saga of Slyshoes Sandy Loranger, who went to jail for serving food at the Town Clock last summer. (cont.)

3. What address should homeless people use for their mailing address?

If people already receive mail, use that mailing address. If not, one will be available on the night of the registration drive.

Marchers then hit the streets with chants ("They say 'take back' we say 'fight back!' ... "Give Sleep a chance!") and signs ("Jesus was homeless by choice."...."Homeless not helpless!"). The March snaked past the jail, spilled out onto Ocean St., and crossed the river to the Mall, with little interference from "redshirts" or police. At the Homeless Table, the demonstration heard a historical summary of homeless harassment from Bathrobespierre Robert, and statements from the hardy Homeless Tabluhteers themselves.

Off to the side, 5 police "guarded" the Busenhart's Bum-baiters who were clustering at the Town Clock, while 2 lone officers "protected" the march. Linda the Lark Edwards' attempt to enter into a heated but peaceful dialogue with "homeless rights opponents," was thwarted by over-eager monitors, insistent on keeping demonstrators quarantined from their opponents. "Rodent" found redshirts agreeing with him that the city needed a campground. And Grinning Ray Grueneich had an amusing dialogue with "Abusin'Heart's" bunch, in which he discussed their proposal to make the Sleeping Ban harsher (to make sleeping outside an offense immediately punishable with jail). "It would keep the city paying for police round-ups, and increase county costs with \$10,000 jury trials."

Some smiled at signs urging winos to get out of town carried by folks who were seen slipping in and out of Bei's bar throughout the early afternoon (Boozin'heart's Beerlovers?). Earlier Linda and Moonrise Mike Carreiro had actually dared to approach City Hall at the height of Busenhart's counter-demonstration. Linda reports the redshirts were idling about in the streets with police looking on, but when she and Mike approached as the redshirts chanted "shoot them" police accused Linda and Mike of being "in the street" and demanded they leave.

Lunch munchies and music greeted the walkers when they returned to the Flatlands. Street guitarist and food activist Sentinel Mike Kartok played his own homeless tunes ("I'm Just Staying Calm In a World That's Gone Wrong"), followed by speakers, singers, and ramblers, with the Deep Fried Sea Monkies ending the afternoon.³

Keith McHenry of Food Not Bombs provided the grub for the group along with Santa Cruz's own Gingersnap George, Slyshoes Sandy, and other lettuce-chopping, chicken-cooking volunteers. McHenry announced a sleep-in at S.F. Mayor Art Agnos' house to protest his "human removal" plan at Civic Center, and noted the twisted priorities of people would celebrate independence day by jailing the public.⁴ (cont.)

 3 Organizers of the rally thanked the Monkeys for letting speaker after speaker use their P.A. system. The group waited until day's end for their chance to play. If you liked their stuff, call Ajax, James, Tom & Ken at 459-9432. The Street Shit Sheet's first unpaid commercial announcement.

4 McHenry and 2 other FNB folks, their pots, and their food truck, were arrested in San Francisco the next day for feeding people at the Civic Center there. On July 11, they were reportedly planning a return engagement with the Oakland Union of the Homeless to open up the Civic Center for all citizens of S.F. - those with beds and those without.

MAKE LOVE ON DRUGS. NOT WAR ON DRUGS

Beverly Adams, mother of 10, played some of the many homeless compositions she'd assembled reflecting her own struggle including "Ballad of the Homeless." Throughout the day police kept a low profile--a minor controversy erupted when Officer "Love It If You'd Leave Me" Levy insisted the permits didn't cover barbequeing. Oakland chefs ignored the officious interruption saying they had food to cook and no time to argue, and the police quickly backed off.

Andrew Jackson of Oakland Union of the Homeless, spoke of kicking in doors to establish dignity housing three years before. Jackson described the struggle from a 3-man tent in Old People's Park in 1977 to a \$5 million dollar corporation run by homeless people themselves, secured legally this spring. He organized a workshop on housing takeovers. A dynamic woman from Berkeley challenged listeners to create enough community and militance to make the people of Santa Cruz glad to let house the homeless; she set up workshops on women's issues and "copwatch," to overcome citizen fear of watching police encounters.

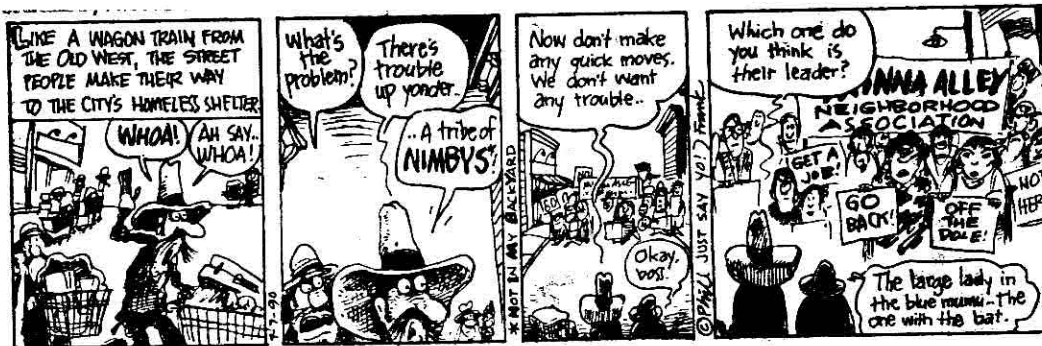
Speakers continued through the afternoon until dinnertime when the long-awaited bbq chicken made its brief appearance. Organizers and observers were amazed at the relative lack of problems, considering so many people gathering from so far away. Lots of noise, comraderie, hope, and sharing--even the town drunk got to take the microphone and say his piece. A brief scuffle at dinnertime was handled by demonstrators themselves. And as night fell, the homeless of Santa Cruz settled in to face another night under the stars and the police flashlights.

AFTERMATH:

Out-of-town participation at the First California Homeless Congress was reduced because local organizers couldn't find a back-up legal camping area and attorney support. Additionally \$3000 made available to Northern California from the California Homeless Coalition was left unspent because of problems organizing the southern California contingent.

"Many Miles" Mike Wilson lost the "Homeless Walk Across America" flag and virtually everything he'd brought with him to a Hannig/Bassett police raid the next day (see story p. 4.). Wilson was saddened, but not discouraged, and spoke of the future. "With the organization in place, it would be a good time to mobilize a larger crowd." Wilson feels the police crackdown on the day of Mitch Snyder's death was an act of poor taste and bad faith on the part of the police.

"If negotiations in the next few weeks do not produce a sanctuary for sleepers and a real change in abusive police practices towards the homeless, folks here may feel the need to do an expanded action in the fall, possibly as soon as Labor Day. Personally I hope the right to sleep is decriminalized and no further outside action is necessary. It's time police and city officials stopped treating people like trash."



Homeless, angry locals stage rallies

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

S.C. Sentinel
7/5/90

SANTA CRUZ — Homeless activists from around the state and fed-up local residents squared off on Independence Day.

The burning issue was: "Is this the land of the free?"

About 200 homeless activists called for an end to the city's camping ban, saying homeless people should be free to sleep where they can. The 600 protesting residents said they were tired of giving Santa Cruz "bums" and "squatters" a free ride.

Carolyn Busenhart, who put together the residents' "Take Back the Town" counter-protest at City Hall, thanked organizers of the statewide homeless protest for choosing Santa Cruz, saying, "If they had not, we'd still be the silent majority."

Homeless activists, rallying in front of the county courthouse, said they chose Santa Cruz so they could help protest the city's ban on outdoor sleeping. Most of the demonstrators came by chartered bus from Oakland, Berkeley, Sonoma and Santa Barbara. Mitch Snyder, nationally known homeless activist from Washington, D.C., sent a telegram in which he

Please see PROTESTS — A3

Protests: signs of the times

SANTA CRUZ — Both homeless activists and angry residents claimed Bart Simpson as their poster boy for their Fourth of July demonstrations.

A homeless activist carried a poster of Simpson declaring, "Like housing for homeless, Dude."

On the other side, a red-shirted resident hoisted a giant poster with a drawing of Bart shouting, "Get a life!"

These placards raised in the two demonstrations showed the feelings on both sides of the issue:

- "Jesus was homeless, too"
- "Homeless go home, and take UCSC with you"
- "The homeless fight back"
- "Throw the bums out"
- "Jobs not bums"(sic)

Finally, there was this large sign in front of City Hall, directed at progressive political leaders, Santa Cruz Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt and county Supervisor Gary Patton: "Moses said: Load up your ass and your camel and follow me to the promised land. Mardi and Gary say: Sit on your ass, light up a Camel, this is the promised land."

Continued from Page A1

called for decriminalization of homelessness in Santa Cruz. "Let there be justice and then there might be peace," his message said.

Noting that the county spends about \$84 million a year on health and social programs and a homeless shelter, Busenhart said Santa Cruzans have no problem with helping the truly needy. But, those who don't want help, or don't want to work, she said, are not truly homeless. "They're squatters and we should accurately call them squatters," Busenhart said.

Busenhart and others called for strengthening the camping ban. They circulated petitions seeking to make violations misdemeanors punishable by jail sentences.

Rod Quartarero, a former City Council candidate, told the cheering crowd that he does not see an island in the middle of the Santa

Cruz harbor. "There's no statue saying bring us your weak for a free ride," he said.

The resident protesters all showed up at the rally wearing red shirts. They also waved small American flags and raised banners to show their approval when speakers called for telling the local street people to either get jobs or get out of town.

One man had taped his placard to a baseball bat. The placard read, "I've lost that caring feeling."

The red-shirted locals and homeless activists clashed only briefly during the day because the two groups held their rallies at different locations.

One red-shirted woman squared off with several homeless supporters, including city Planning Commissioner Celia Scott-Von der Muhl, on the steps of the courthouse.

"I'm seeing a lot of upset peo-

... cont. next page

Homeless activists, Santa Cruz residents stage dual protests

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER - 7/6/90

Street people say city is hostile; town folk are 'fed up'

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

SANTA CRUZ — Angry residents dressed in red, white and blue and waving flags clashed Wednesday with about 250 chanting Northern California street people protesting on behalf of the homeless.

Boisterous counterdemonstrations were staged by the two groups only blocks apart.

"We are not trash," Gerald Waldron of the Oakland Union of the Homeless said as the protesters, bused to Santa Cruz for the demonstration, marched to the Santa Cruz County Courthouse for a rally.

Supporters from San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose and Sonoma County traveled by bus to join local homeless activists in a protest charging Santa Cruz with being hostile to the homeless.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 members and supporters of "Take Our Town Back" rallied at nearby City Hall, declaring themselves to be "willing to help those who help themselves" but "fed up with freeloaders."

"This is Independence Day," Lee Phelps, a speaker, told the crowd. "Let's proclaim ourselves independent from bums, freeloaders and squatters."

Some members of the two sides got into a brief shouting skirmish when homeless protesters drove by the rival demonstration, honking their horns.

The homeless issue has been a controversy in Santa Cruz ever since the Oct. 17 earthquake and the debate over rebuilding the damaged Pacific Garden Mall.

Merchants have backed measures discouraging street people from gathering downtown.

"The Downtown Association is trying to make the claim that people won't want to invest in the mall as long as the street people are there," Brian Koepke, 31, a homeless marcher, said. "But I think it's economics. Investors know that the longer they wait, the more the price will go down."

"The street people spent money downtown, too. But the Downtown Association doesn't see them as shoppers. They just see them as deadheads and hippies."

Homeless activists have decried the city's anti-camping ordinance, aimed at preventing people from sleeping outside overnight, alleged police harassment and the city's lack of affordable housing.

Mitch Snyder, a nationally known homeless activist in Washington, D.C., sent a telegram calling for decriminalization of homelessness in Santa Cruz.

"Let there be justice and then there might be peace," his message said.

"Take Our Town Back" wants the city to make its anti-camping ordinance even tougher, making punishment a jail sentence rather than a ticket.

"They are squatters, and we should accurately call them squatters," said resident Carolyn Busenhart, who organized the counter-protest.

Out of Town Coverage! ↑

Lawmaker links abortion protests to funds for low-income housing

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — An ultraconservative congressman threatened Friday to try to pull federal funding of housing programs for the poor in Los Angeles over allegations of police brutality in arresting anti-abortion protesters.

In a letter sent to his onetime political ally, Rep. William Dannemeyer accused Police Chief Daryl Gates of allowing his officers to "brutalize" anti-abortion protesters while exercising "considerable care" when arresting demonstrators of the liberal ilk.

Dannemeyer, R-Fullerton, said that because of the alleged police brutality, the city is in "serious jeopardy" of losing more than \$55 million in federal grants, known as Title II funds, earmarked for low-income housing. How Dannemeyer intends to follow up on his threat and whether he would succeed is unclear.

A spokeswoman for Mayor Tom Bradley's office said it

taking Dannemeyer's threat seriously and does not believe that police used excessive force.

Gates, himself a well-known conservative who is not one to mince words, fired back in a blistering response, calling Dannemeyer's letter "absurd" and "stupid."

"You can investigate until hell freezes over and you will find nothing in the actions of the Los Angeles Police Department that would prevent Title II funds from coming to this community," Gates wrote in his letter released Friday.

In his letter, dated April 20, Dannemeyer said that police "brutalized non-violent protesters" who tried to block the entrance of a downtown women's health clinic, Family Planning Associates, on April 14.

Behind the protest

To the editor:
The scheduling of the first California Homeless Congress for July 4 originated with three statewide housing/homeless organizations at a California Housing 90 conference in early April, who were outraged to hear about police arrests of sleepers and seizure of homeless blankets.

Organizers from that conference sought prior compromises with city council that might avert the possible embarrassment and inconvenience that a large-scale demonstration and sleep-out on the 4th of July might present. As it had with its own local homeless, the council declined to discuss any changes in its "no sleeping after 11 p.m." law. Those who refuse to compromise a rigid anti-homeless policy must reap the crop they have sown.

Some fanciful letter-writers keep repeating the fable that Santa Cruz has a "good" reputation among the homeless that makes them "flock to town." What a laugh! San Francisco and Berkeley, at least allow street people to sleep at night (though not to pitch a tent). Santa Cruz retains the unique distinction of having been the only city ever to jail its own citizens for feeding the poor.

Recycled horror stories about isolated and atypical street incidents 2-8 years old do not address the basis issue that faces all of us — merchants, citizens, even homeless advocates: how do we create a downtown that is both a human and economic success that includes every class of people?

Excluding homeless representation from Vision Santa Cruz's investigative committee is not a good first step. Freezing people into an illegal status at night by denying them a legal place to sleep is a bad second one. The city council's Wormhoudt-Laird majority turned down a cost-effective opening of the successful drop-in Satellite Shelter program (\$7,000 to add 45 spaces for three months, compared to over 10 times that amount for less spaces in the River Street Shelter). It is this kind of action that prompts mass protest.

ROBERT NORSE
Santa Cruz
7/7/90

Dannemeyer's law may allow our own homeless demonstrators to sue!
More next issue!

5/1/90

AID FOR HOMELESS: Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Stanford, announced Thursday he is proposing legislation that would provide more shelter and food for the homeless. The congressman's first proposal would require that National Guard armories serve as overnight shelters — except in times of military necessity — with private groups to administer and pay for maintenance. "It's truly a senseless tragedy to have people sleeping on park benches when an armory sits vacant four blocks away," Campbell said. "Why close them simply because the temperature rises above 40 degrees?" He also is proposing that states reform their liability laws to allow grocery stores and restaurants to give the tons of good food thrown into the trash yearly to hungry people. He said fear of lawsuits now keeps many potential donors from giving surplus food. Campbell's plan is supported by South Bay officials such as Jim McEntee, director of human relations for Santa Clara County.



Campbell

away," Campbell said. "Why close them simply because the temperature rises above 40 degrees?" He also is proposing that states reform their liability laws to allow grocery stores and restaurants to give the tons of good food thrown into the trash yearly to hungry people. He said fear of lawsuits now keeps many potential donors from giving surplus food. Campbell's plan is supported by South Bay officials such as Jim McEntee, director of human relations for Santa Clara County.

ple," Scott-Von der Muhll later told a reporter. "We've got a big problem, not just in Santa Cruz, but across the nation."

"The problem won't be solved by kicking people out of town, but only by seeking peaceful solutions," she said.

Several red-shirted men and a couple of teen-agers with signs calling for the street people to get out of town confronted the homeless activists later in the day in front of the Post Office.

There was no violence, and police reported making no arrests. Gerald Waldron of the Oakland Homeless Union told a reporter he understood the local residents' frustration over the homeless issue. "I think if anything, it's (red-shirt rally) a good example of the strain on the taxpayer," Waldron said.

Just pouring money into social agencies, he said, won't break the cycle of poverty. People need training or retraining so they can find jobs, he said. The problem of jobs and of affordable housing, he said, is a national problem and must be addressed by the federal government.

While Waldron and others called for jobs and shelter, local activists did not. At one point late in the day, local activist Linda Edwards shouted at a fellow protester to stop yelling about housing. "It's human rights," she urged. The local homeless activists railed against the police for arresting people for sleeping in front of the Post Office or in city parks. They called for the City Council to repeal the camping ban.

Former Mayor Bruce Van Allen, who said he favored repealing the ban, told the crowd he believes that will never happen. "It's a loser, no City Council will stay in office for more than two weeks if they did," he said.

Van Allen's comments were met by shouts. "Throw the progressives out," screamed one man.

None of the current City Council members took part in either demonstration, although Don Lane watched both. "I'm just watching and listening," he said. "Maybe I'll learn something to help us figure out how to resolve this situation," Lane said.

Councilman John Mahaney watched the residents' rally from a secluded corner at City Hall. "People are obviously fed up," he said. Mahaney said the protest was the largest he could recall.

Mahaney blamed the local homeless backlash on a small group of activists. "There's just a few people stirring things up," he said.

Anyone who comes to Tuesday night's council meeting, he said, will find that the City Council is going to spend \$1 million next fiscal year on problems for the needy. Those who donned red shirts Wednesday were largely longtime local residents. They were business owners, dentists, police officers' wives.

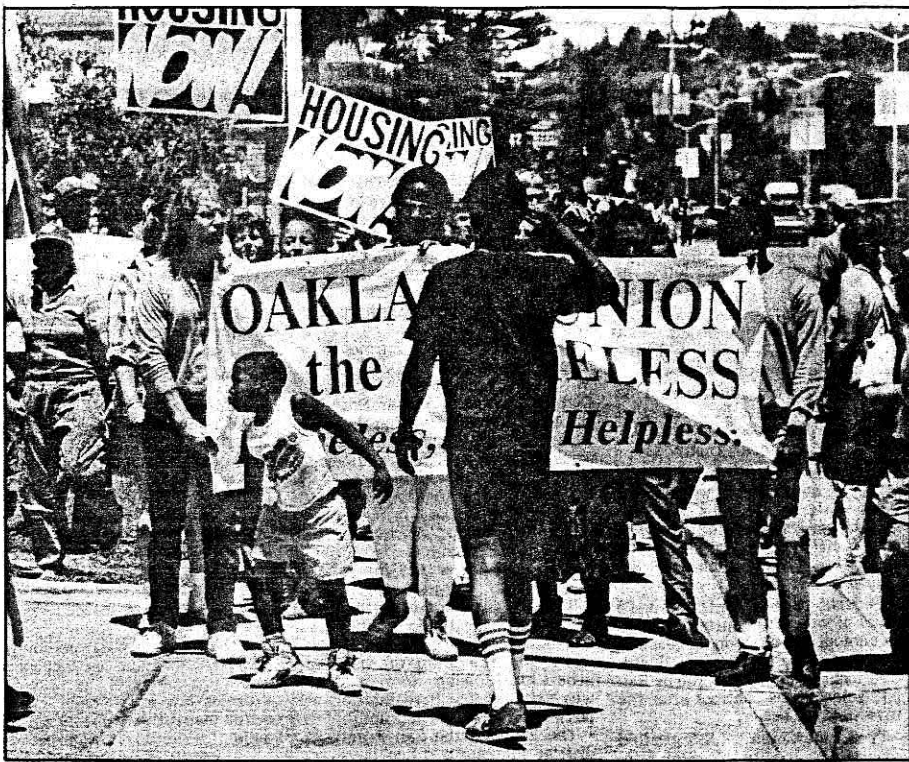
Among them were Santa Cruz native Lorrie Weber and her three small daughters. "We live on Grant Street and have a real problem with the homeless going into the park where our kids play. The men urinate on the sidewalks in front of our children and, just the other day, we found a woman lying nude in the park with her pants around her ankles," Weber said.

While Waldron and others called for jobs and shelter, local activists did not. At one point late in the day, local activist Linda Edwards shouted at a fellow protester to stop yelling about housing. "It's human rights," she urged. The local homeless activists railed against the police for arresting people for sleeping in front of the Post Office or in city parks. They called for the City Council to repeal the camping ban.

Former Mayor Bruce Van Allen, who said he favored repealing the ban, told the crowd he believes that will never happen. "It's a loser, no City Council will stay in office for more than two weeks if they did," he said.

Van Allen's comments were met by shouts. "Throw the progressives out," screamed one man.

None of the current City Council members took part in either demonstration, although Don Lane watched both. "I'm just watching and listening," he said. "Maybe I'll learn something to help us figure out how to resolve this situation," Lane said.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel photos

Members of the Oakland homeless union came to town to lend their support.

5/1/90

By Anne Stroock
Chronicle Staff Writer

Separate lawsuits were filed against two San Francisco residential hotels yesterday alleging

that they broke city law by renting to tourists rooms that should have gone to low-income, elderly and disabled residents.

The suits were filed in San Francisco Superior Court by the

Underlorn Housing Clinic, a group that advocates low-income housing, in an attempt to force the Lotus Hotel and the Amsterdam Inn into compliance with the city's residential hotel ordinance.

"This is the beginning of a whole new era in enforcement of the city code," said Randy Shaw, executive director of the housing clinic. "This is a warning to other hotels."

The first suit charges the Lotus Hotel, at 580 O'Farrell Street, with renting some or all of its 59 residential rooms to tourists. The second suit alleges that the Amsterdam Inn, at 749 Taylor Street, with renting its 14 residential rooms to nonresidents.

"I don't know what to say. I haven't talked to my lawyer," said Michael Tsang, who owns and operates the Lotus Hotel. Kanti Goyal, who owns and operates the Amsterdam Inn, could not be reached for comment.

The 9-year-old city ordinance was passed in an effort to preserve low income housing in San Francisco. The law requires residential hotel owners to rent designated residential rooms exclusively to people who will occupy them for 12 or more consecutive days.

During the tourist season, May 1 through September 30, up to 25 percent of the designated residential rooms may be rented to tourists if the rooms meet certain conditions, according to the law.

However, the lawsuits filed yesterday claims the hotels are over the 25 percent limit year round and the rooms do not meet the necessary criteria.

Shaw said his organization plans to file lawsuits against three more hotels next week.

'People are obviously fed up.'

— Councilman John Mahaney

ple are obviously fed up," he said. Mahaney said the protest was the largest he could recall.

Mahaney blamed the local homeless backlash on a small group of activists. "There's just a few people stirring things up," he said.

Anyone who comes to Tuesday night's council meeting, he said, will find that the City Council is going to spend \$1 million next fiscal year on problems for the needy.

Those who donned red shirts Wednesday were largely longtime local residents. They were business owners, dentists, police officers' wives.

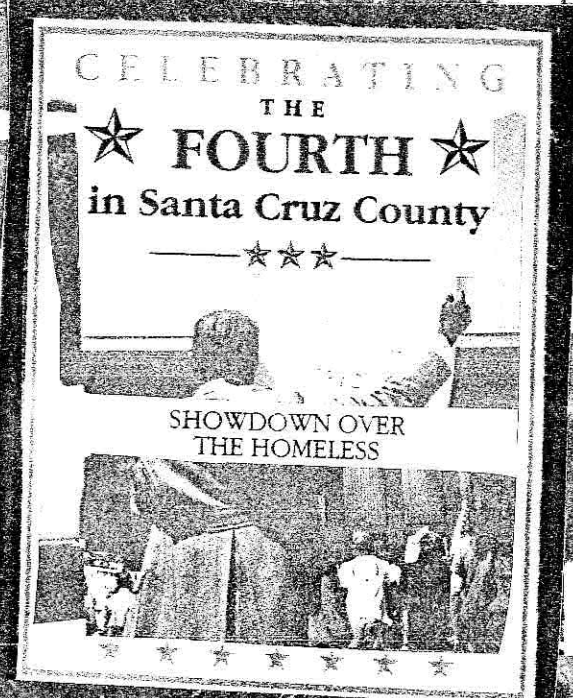
Among them were Santa Cruz native Lorrie Weber and her three small daughters. "We live on Grant Street and have a real problem with the homeless going into the park where our kids play. The men urinate on the sidewalks in front of our children and, just the other day, we found a woman lying nude in the park with her pants around her ankles," Weber said.



Counter-protester let his bat and sign do the talking.



"We're working on a promising new treatment for sleeping."



CAMPING BAN CONFLICT ESCALATES 4
The homeless plan a July 4th protest on the steps of City Hall, but not without opposition.

4TH OF JULY PREP ROUSES RED-SHIRT RANTERS: RADIO DEBATES
ORGANIZERS MOVE NOON MARCH TO "GAIN MORAL HIGH GROUND"

"Take Back Our City" blared the fractious flyer printed and distributed by the local Plumber's Union in support of a bizarre rally "in favor of the camping ban." Urging that a certain class of people not be allowed to sleep at night unless they paid for the privilege, cosmetician Carolyn Busenhart and construction manager Vern Bohr called for 1000 sleepsmashers to gather at City Hall July 4 to oppose those calling for an end to the Ban. "Wear a red shirt," advised the flyer and the subsequent 1/4 page *S.C. Sentinel* ad.

Branding Bathrobespierre Robert "an advocate of continued homelessness," Bumbasher Busenhart stridently denounced social services to the poor (except the "small fraction" that is "truly homeless" which was "well taken care of by existing services"). On two noontime debates a week apart on Michael Zwering's KSCO program, Robert and Moxie Margaret Marr on June 23rd, and Jabberwocky Jay, Blackbird Barbara Haglund, "No Nonsense" Ned Van Valkenburgh, and "Levelheart" Linda Lemaster on June 30th faced off against the Bumbasher and Vexatious Vern.

Vexatious and Bumbasher insisted that "the homeless by choice," "homelessness advocates with hidden agendas," and "paid outside agitators" were invading the town. Jabberwocky, Blackbird, and Levelheart denounced the categories of prejudice. Bathrobespierre insisted the issue was where do people sleep? Moderator Michael kept vainly trying to turn the discussion back to solutions to local homeless problems. Most callers denounced "street people downtown" as the prime demons in the current Redevelopment Hell.

In response to fears that dangerous physical or negative verbal confrontation would develop between the two groups of demonstrators on July 4, concerned liberals and some homeless folks, meeting at Keystone's Cupboard (aka A Free Meal) on June 27 took up Earth Day organizer Sherry Conable's suggestion that the homeless march be moved from City Hall to the County Building. Conable, a relative newcomer to the homeless movement, had spoken out sharply to the Gang of 7 in April after Jabberwocky Jay had lost blankets, bedding, and all to police in a mid-month raid. On diplomatic terms with Mayor Wormhoudt, Conable had been working to facilitate "getting the right permits" and "assuring a peaceful demonstration," for the July 4 rally.

Her independent appeal to the homeless and subsequent cancellation of the City Hall permit (moving the rally from City Hall to the County Building) provoked some anger among other organizers who felt she was limiting options and imposing her agenda, but by early July, most everyone agreed that the County Building was a better place for a demonstration than the City Hall anyway. "It's bigger, it's more visible, it's a free speech area that doesn't require permits, and it's greener," admitted Bathrobespierre, who had initially raged against Conable and the "coterie of nervous liberals who pulled a last-minute power play to switch the march route."

So Supervisor Bill Maher wants to "crack down on vagrancy" in San Francisco? That reminds me of then-Vice President Bush wanting to crack down on crime and, not coincidentally, ease a decidedly wimp image.

Maher appears tired of being a supervisor. Could he be running for mayor?

5-4-90 ESTELLE MARVIN
of *San Francisco*

4. May a nonprofit (501(c)(3) organization (shelter, food pantry) register voters?

Yes. As long as the people assisting in the registration do not advocate in any way support for a political party or candidate. That is, it must be strictly nonpartisan.

Panhandlers Hope Supreme Court Will Be Generous

Homeless: Calling them a 'menace,' a New York court upholds a ban on aggressive beggars in the subway. But advocates plan another appeal.

By KAREN TUMULTY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK—As tens of thousands of rush-hour commuters jostled each other out of the subway Friday morning, few noticed the shabby, gray-haired man named Bill who stood alongside a doughnut stand in Grand Central Station, wordlessly jingling coins in a battered paper cup.

Occasionally, someone would pause and drop him a nickel or a quarter. At this rate, Bill said, he would probably make \$4 in the next few hours.

In one New York federal judge's opinion, what Bill was doing is an expression of his constitutional right to free speech, to be protected by the courts just as they have defended the rights of religious and charitable groups to solicit donations in public places.

An outstretched hand holding a cup "cannot but remind the passer-by that people in the city live in poverty and often lack the essentials for survival," Judge Leonard B. Sand wrote last January.

But an appeals court overturned that ruling Thursday, saying panhandling "amounts to nothing less than a menace to the common good." Two of the three justices voted to uphold a ban on begging in the labyrinthine subway system

through which 3.5 million New Yorkers travel daily, as well as in the railroad stations that serve hundreds of thousands of suburban commuters.

"It seems fair to say that most individuals who beg are not doing so to convey any social or political message," the justices wrote. "Rather, they beg to collect money."

Homeless advocates say they expect to appeal this case to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it could be the first federal test of whether the Constitution affords protection to an occupation that dates back earlier than biblical times. Meanwhile, the transit authority said Friday that it plans to step up its enforcement of the panhandling ban, which had been relaxed pending the outcome of the case.

A similar case has been filed in federal court in San Francisco, where Celestus Blair Jr., a formerly homeless man arrested five times for begging, has challenged the city's enforcement of a 1961 California law that bans accosting others to solicit alms. He argues that he did nothing more than ask people for help.

Margaret C. Crosby, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing Blair, said she believes the cases in New York and California are the only ones testing the issue in federal court, although several others have been filed elsewhere on the state level.

Crosby said the tightening restrictions on panhandling in cities across the nation are evidence that "there's been a real backlash against the homeless. It reflects people's frustration with society's

inability to deal with this problem. It's understandable, but it's unfortunate, because it's certainly not going to deal with the root causes of homelessness."

But New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority says the problem is more than frustration—it is fear so great that it is driving passengers out of the subway system. In recent years, beggars have adopted more aggressive tactics, confronting passengers as they take out their money to pay for tokens or when they are trapped in the tight confines of a moving subway car.

A 1988 transit authority study indicated that two-thirds of subway riders have felt intimidated into giving money to panhandlers.

Douglas Lasdon, executive director of the Legal Action Center for the Homeless, which filed the class action suit against the transit authority, insisted that his organization does not defend such harassment. What it seeks, he said, is for the transit authority to treat panhandlers as it does charitable and religious groups, which are allowed to solicit only in areas where they do not interfere with the flow of commuter traffic and which are banned from making their pitches aboard subway cars.

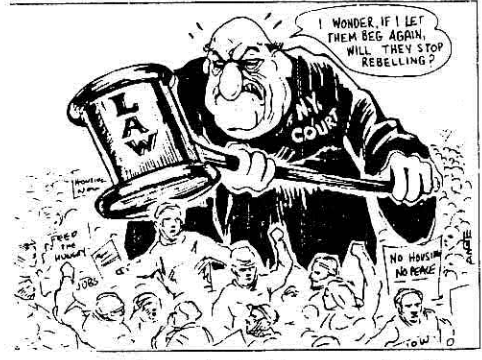
Paul G. Chevigny, a New York University law professor who has written a book on freedom of expression, said the courts face a "very close question" in determining whether begging is a personal statement or a commercial endeavor. Still, he asserted that the appeals court probably had gone too far in allowing a total ban.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Robert Valentino, a spokesman for the 3,700-member transit authority police

force, said that in the wake of the appeals court decision his agency has been "reinforcing and informing our members that we expect them to vigorously pursue the panhandling problem." In most instances, that will mean ordering beggars to leave or issuing them summonses, he said.

"We will be aggressively trying to enforce [the ban] to try to ensure safe passage for the riding public," Valentino said.

"We're not saying this is going to be a cure-all," he added. "We may just be moving the problem somewhere else."



People's Tribune 5/10

Appeals Court Rules Against Subway Beggars

By Craig Wolff
New York Times

NEW YORK — The U.S. Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled yesterday that begging is not a constitutionally protected right and upheld the New York City subway system's power to bar panhandlers.

The 2-to-1 decision overturned a lower court's ruling that included begging under the right to free speech protected by the First Amendment.

In language unusually strong for an appellate court ruling, Judge Frank Altamari, writing the majority opinion, said that "whether intended as so, or not, begging in the subway often amounts to nothing less than assault, creating in the passengers the apprehension of imminent danger."

He also chastised the lower court for deferring to the rights of the beggars while overlooking the concerns of the system's millions of riders.

Officials for the Metropolitan

Transportation Authority hailed the decision as a victory for a system beset by the problems of crime and homelessness.

The court battle, although focused on the subways, has given a new legal dimension to a social problem that has grown in intensity not only in New York but also in other cities around the nation.

The number of people living in boxes and in doorways and openly pleading for loose change has grown, and so has a kind of tension for many who waver between sympathy, anger and fear, as the face of poverty becomes a part of their daily life.

Citing a study commissioned by the MTA in 1968, Altamari said a majority of riders perceive begging as "intimidating," "threatening" and "harassing."

"They are the bulk of the subway's patronage," Altamari wrote. "And the city has an obvious interest in providing them with a reasonably safe and benign means of public transportation."

Lawyers and advocates for the two homeless men — William Young and Joseph Walley — who had challenged the ban on begging imposed last November by the Transit Authority said the court now have joined city neighborhoods, the Parks Department, and others who have relinquished their responsibility for the city's homeless.

Douglas Lasdon, executive director of the Legal Action Center for the Homeless in Manhattan, said his organization probably will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

EFFORT PROMISED AGAINST BEGGARS

Transit Officers Are Dubious as Chief Vows Crackdown — Warnings Issued

By CALVIN SIMS
Special to The New York Times

NEW YORK, May 11 — Transit officials today promised an aggressive effort to enforce a ban on subway panhandling, but some officers suggested it won't be that easy.

The officers said they doubt that the ban, upheld Thursday by a Federal appeals court, would be enforced uniformly or with zeal. They said many officers are not certain exactly what constitutes panhandling under the law and are reluctant to take action against people who have no means of support.

"My mother always told me never to kick a dog when he's down," said one officer at the Union Square station, who, like other officers interviewed, asked not to be identified. "Well, these are people not dogs, and I would have difficulty kicking some of these people out of here." A transit officer on patrol at the West 72nd Street station said: "To whom and when does this ruling apply? I don't know. Do we arrest people who are sitting on the ground with a cup and aren't saying anything?"

Twin Focus of the Decision

The appeals court decision made it illegal to beg on subway platforms, trains and stations or in the city's rail and bus terminals. It overturned a January decision, in a case brought by two homeless men, in which District Court Judge Leonard B. Sand had ruled that begging was a constitutionally protected form of speech. Lawyers for the homeless men said today that they had not decided whether to appeal.

The appeals court also reaffirmed a state law against loitering for the purpose of begging, a law that Judge Sand had also ruled unconstitutional.

William Bratton, the new chief of the New York City Transit Police, said today that he is advising transit officers beginning Monday to eject all panhandlers from the subway system on their first encounter and not to give any warnings.

If beggars harass or intimidate passengers, Chief Bratton has instructed transit officers to arrest them or issue summonses for begging.

In the coming weeks, Chief Bratton said, the transit police department plans to conduct special training and counseling sessions to guide officers in dealing with panhandlers.

Told of the ambivalent comments from his officers, Chief Bratton said: "I am happy to see that our officers are compassionate, but we can simply not tolerate begging in any form on the subway system. Period. The system is used by too many people for us to give special consideration to panhandlers."

Frustration Among Passengers

While expressing sympathy for the plight of homeless people who beg on the subways, most straphangers interviewed today said they were frustrated with the number of homeless people they encounter lying on stairs, seats and benches in stations or begging from car to car.

"A dirty, smelly, disgusting person with his or her hand out is the last person I want in my face after a busy day in the office," Joyce Tucker, an executive secretary from Queens, said. "I am sorry that they are destitute, but I work hard to pay for my ride on the subways and deserve something a little more civilized."

In Grand Central Terminal, Matthew Gaffney, 67, walked around with a small cup asking for money to buy a Mother's Day card and a plant, which he said he planned to take to his mother's grave in Brooklyn.

'That Should Be Enough'

A transit officer told Mr. Gaffney, who is not homeless, that he could not solicit in the terminal and should move on. "Well, I got \$7 bucks, that should be enough," Mr. Gaffney announced, crumpling the cup. "Or I can borrow the rest from my bartender until my veterans check comes."

In the Times Square subway station, a woman who identified herself as Sister Mary from St. Joseph's Church in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn said she would continue to solicit donations, as she held a small wooden bowl.

"What I do here I do for my church and for God," said Sister Mary, who has asked for donations from the same spot near the turnstiles for about four years. She said that no one had questioned her right to be there today.

John Cunningham, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the parent agency of the New York Transit Authority and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad, said that charitable organizations are permitted to solicit money in the subway system and that commercial products may be sold, provided the vendor has a license.

Court rules against subway panhandlers

By William M. Reilly
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that begging on the subways is not a constitutionally protected form of free speech and is "nothing less than assault" on citizens by panhandlers.

The decision by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a Jan. 26 ruling by U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand that poor people had a First Amendment right to beg.

"We think (Sand's) analysis reflects an exacerberated deference to the alleged individual rights of beggars and panhandlers to the great detriment of the common good," the appeals court said in the 3-1 decision upholding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's ban on panhandling in the city's subway system.

Sand's earlier ruling had fueled a heated debate on panhandling and heightened the frustration of commuters complaining about increasingly aggressive homeless people asking for money in the subways.

Douglas Lasdon, executive director of the Legal Action Center for the Homeless, one of the parties that brought the suit against the MTA ban, said he was "disappointed with the ruling."

"Silencing poor people will not solve the hunger or homeless problem," Lasdon said.

The appeals court decision cited a recent Supreme Court ruling warning against the view "that an apparently limitless variety of conduct can be labeled 'speech' whenever the person engaging in the conduct merely intends to express an idea."

"It seems fair to say that most individuals who beg are not doing so to convey any social or political message," said Judge Frank Altamari, who wrote the 50-page decision. "Rather, they beg to collect money."

"Begging is inherently aggressive to the captive passengers in the close confines of the subway atmosphere," the ruling said.

"Begging in the subway often amounts to nothing less than assault, creating in the passengers the apprehension of imminent danger," the decision continued.

Yesterday's decision by the appeals court overturned an opinion handed down January 25 by U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand. Sand ruled that the Transit Authority ban on begging — imposed as part of an attempt to clear the subway of the homeless last fall — is unconstitutional because begging qualified as a form of speech protected under the First Amendment.

The appellate decision also upheld a New York state law that makes it illegal to loiter for the purpose of begging. In his ruling Sand also struck down that law.

Now, with the reversal, it is illegal to beg, not only in the subway system, but in any of the city's major underground terminals, including Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal, the Port Authority bus station and the PATH train station at the World Trade Center.

The staggering size of the city's subway system — with more than 6,000 cars transporting about 3,500,000 passengers from 468 stations onto 648 miles of track — has led even advocates such as Lasdon to conclude that the Transit Authority has neither the ability nor the desire to evict the homeless.

Indeed, the system has traditionally ignored its own regulations that have long enabled it to ban begging.

Robert Kiley, the MTA chairman, said police will focus on the trains, where "panhandling is especially obnoxious and where there is no escape."

N.Y. judges perpetrate an assault on the homeless

Editorial

"Begging on the subway amounts to nothing less than assault, creating in the sengers the apprehension of imminent danger."

—From majority decision 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals

On May 10 this court ruled begging in New York's subways is impermissible under the 1st Amendment.

We oppose this ruling. The question remains: is homelessness itself permissible under capitalism?

Under capitalism, homelessness is legal and permissible. In a system, standing naked before us, has created more than

one million homeless children. You don't see the ruling class passing laws making this illegal.

And what about the issue of "assault" these justices so arrogantly condemn? Real assault is when a 77-year-old Detroit man, James Koenig, freezes to death in a building because the gas company refuses to keep the heat on! Real assault is when a homeless mother, 21-year-old Eugenia Marin, is forced to give birth in the middle of a Los Angeles park at 3 a.m. Real assault is when Sandra Loranger of Santa Cruz, Calif., gets thrown in jail for feeding the homeless.

You want to talk "assault?" "Imminent danger?" The ruling class now is saying that those with nothing can't even beg! Better to die silently through hunger and want, says the New

York Court of Appeals.

This ruling is criminal. Capitalism is criminal. The capitalists are guilty of creating homelessness and the *People's Tribune* charges them with assault with intent to kill.

Fed-up landlord sets new criteria

KINGSTON, N.Y. (UPI) — A landlord tired of undesirable tenants said Friday he has received hundreds of phone calls since advertising for tenants with standards, including knowing that "roaches are not household pets."

Landlord Jim Kennedy, 45, of New Paltz, said he placed the classified ad in the Kingston Freeman after booting a perceived dealer from one of his apartments.

Kennedy said he was tired of renting to the "dregs of society."

The advertisement requires that tenants:

— "have a job or at least give the appearance that you could get one."

— "have some type of schooling or at least know there are other adverbs besides the one which starts with 'F' and ends with 'ing.'"

— "realize roaches are not household pets and you will keep the apartment clean so that you will not attract any."

— "actually pay the rent on time, with a good check."

— "realize drugs are not fun and you must have a doctor's prescription to use them."

— "must actually be married to your partner or at least know the correct spelling of their last name."

Kennedy said he got the idea for the ad "from the people who were

coming to look at the property.

"I own a lot of houses and have had this problem for a long time — you put \$200,000 into a building and it's not taken care of," Kennedy said.

"I will rent to anybody — black, green or whatever — as long as they take care of the product and pay the rent on time," Kennedy said.

Don Zirkle, a spokesman for the state Division of Human Rights in New York City, said there is nothing illegal with Kennedy's first five criteria, but bristled at the sixth.

Zirkle said the office has won a number of legal battles for unmarried couples.

Kennedy said he has received 200 calls since placing the ad and "195 were positive."

He said he rented the apartment "to a lovely couple."

Jail For Sleeping?
The Sentinel doesn't say...

Lifting the camping ban no solution

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL - July 6, 1990

THE MOST vocal of the local homeless activists are out of step with the real needs and wants of the homeless — here and elsewhere. Local folks are intense in their feelings that they don't want Santa Cruz to become a haven for bums who are able-bodied but who refuse to work.

The initial call for a Fourth of July "homeless demonstration" was little more than a plea to protest the city of Santa Cruz' legitimate camping ban ordinance. The relatively small number of persons who responded to that call, from both here and afar, was a telling point that the ordinance isn't viewed as the long-term resolution to the problem. And, getting more homeless persons to come here didn't do anything to help solve it.

The counter demonstration included 500-700 people who normally don't get within blocks of a formal protest, much less participate in one. Their frustrations became pronounced when they discussed the difficulty in trying to distinguish between the homeless-by-circumstance from the homeless-by-choice. It wasn't a movement to indiscriminately run people out of town on a rail, but to let the general public realize that the city and county of Santa Cruz have done very well in getting funds for programs to help the needy.

There are persons here who have fallen on hard times, who want and deserve help. They should get it, and many of them are. There have been numerous satisfying stories about homeless men and women who have taken advantage of employment and housing opportunities here that are provided through county, state and federal programs.

Nobody should protest that. But when the thrust of a complaint is on expanding a problem instead of solving it, people are bound to protest — or call a counter protest.

The emphasis of out-of-town speakers was on the need for housing and jobs. Local activists were more interested in making a case about the camping ban and what they feel is the right to sleep anywhere. They didn't make a convincing argument.

When both out-of-town speakers began talking about jobs and housing at the homeless demonstration, they were cut short by those who wanted remarks centered on the camping ban. One of the only persons who called for constructive resolutions there was former mayor Bruce Van Allen, recognized as a socialist while in office and now listed as a progressive. When he correctly related that City Council repeal of the camping ban isn't likely, Van Allen received a chorus response of "Throw the progressives out."

The problem is there isn't enough affordable housing here, and prices have been increasing 20 percent or more a year. Jobs are scarce, and the pay for comparable ones don't hold up to those offered over the hill. Why do you think 20,000 or more commuters cross over Highway 17 every day?

The homeless problem in Santa Cruz isn't going to go away by lifting a camping ban or by calling for more homeless to come to our community. It will be resolved when there are more jobs and training for people, when the state and federal governments provide better (mental) health care, and when there's a long-term plan to provide adequate shelter for those who want to be productive members of our society.

Ann Arbor: House them in jails, not in homes

By BARBARA RANSBY
Special to the Guardian

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Public housing sites and abandoned houses have become the battlegrounds for escalating struggles over shelter and affordable housing here in recent months. Over the past few weeks the battle has heated up significantly, resulting in three confrontations with local police, one including the FBI.

On April 5 two homeless families moved into an abandoned house on a site where a new parking structure is scheduled to be built. With help from the local Homeless Action Committee and with banners reading "House people not cars" draped over the front porch, the squatters proceeded to make the house a livable alternative to the already overcrowded Ann Arbor homeless shelter. Individuals and community organizations donated food, clothing and household items to support the families.

Three weeks later, on the morning of April 24, a "prospective buyer" and two local police officers armed with cameras and billy clubs forced their way into the house. One woman resident was pushed in the face, while another HAC member was shoved repeatedly by the cops. Two activists are being charged with "opposing

and hindering a police officer" and face a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail.

Four African-American families were evicted from public housing units in southwest Ann Arbor April 27 by a combined force of FBI agents and local police armed with machine guns. The alleged reason for the early morning raids was an effort to rid public housing projects of drugs and drug dealers. No warrants were obtained prior to the raids; no drugs or paraphernalia were found on the premises; and no drug-related charges were filed against any of the residents involved. Yet Ann Arbor police and federal narcotics officers proclaimed another victory in the "war against drugs" as they escorted a handful of children and their parents into the street and boarded up their homes.

Observers say it is no coincidence that one of the evicted women has been an outspoken activist in Unity, a newly formed citywide coalition of residents in public housing. Unity has confronted the City Council and Ann Arbor Housing Commission in recent months, demanding decent low-income housing. Elmira Collins, a tenant organizer and public housing resident, described the eviction incident as "a nightmare," pointing out, "They don't have to take you to court or anything, they just

throw you in the street. . . . This is a war against the poor."

Some activists argue that the current anti-drug hysteria serves as a convenient excuse for criminalizing entire poor communities. In many jurisdictions policies are being implemented that force residents of drug-infested areas to carry identification passes and allow police to stop and search vehicles deemed "suspicious." Pending "no-knock" laws would allow police to burst into people's homes on the mere allegation of drug use. Given the history of racist and abusive treatment of people of color by the police, these moves promise to further legitimize racist harassment, intimidation and brutality. Federal narcotics officers donned hoods before conducting the April 27 raid, reminiscent of other hooded raids against impoverished Black families in a not-too-distant past.

While these two incidents demonstrate the intimate links between racism, police repression and the war against the poor which have escalated over the past decade, they also laid the basis for an impromptu coalition of progressive and people of color activists. Within eight hours of the April 27 evictions about 40 activists from HAC, Unity and the United Coalition Against Ra-

(Continued on page 19)

POLICE SERGEANTS LAUNCH NEW RAIDS ON HOMELESS TABLE #14
CRACKDOWN SEIZURES AND ARRESTS THREATEN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS

On Tuesday, June 25th, just 8 days before Homeless Independence Day, hard-line police sergeants "Hobohunter" Hennig and "Don't Fuck With Me" St. Onge led another spoiling party against the homeless vigil outside the post office. And one day later, Sgt. "Sleepstrangler" Sealy went from property pillaging to seizing human beings by actually arresting four men and one woman for sleeping there."

It was the first such roundup since two teams of negotiators began to settle outstanding courtcases and set up a legal safe camping zone. An early June 13th raid had been reversed later on the same day after victims flooded the police station and city clerk's office with complaints and claims respectively. [see story p. 15.] Shortly thereafter the police station released homeless property taken in other raids and attorneys began high-level negotiations to end the cycle of sleeping/"public nuisance" arrests around the Homeless Table.

A few days before the June 26th blanketnapping, Bubbah Brian reported, Sgt. Hennig had made a mild guest appearance at the Table and suggested, but not ordered, the removal of several lawn chairs from the corner. Given Hennig's relatively courteous request, activists quickly responded by sacrificing the furniture to show they were willing to meet police "concerns" half-way.

To no avail. In the later morning of June 26, on the day of the last City Council meeting before the July 4 Homeless rally, sadsack sergeants warned Stormin' Norman & his Homeless Tabluhteers to spruce up the corner. St. Onge and Hennig then returned three hours later and rewarded the homeless corner-cleaners with sarcastic abuse and a replay of some of the worst scenes of the winter and spring: blueshirt blanketsnatching, wholesale seizures of food, and sleeping bags--nearly everything in sight, and "no tickets/ no reasons."

Witnessing this mean-spirited misuse of power were Candlelight Kim, Judge-Me-Not Joe, Latchkey Lisa, and camper's counselor Grinning Ray Grueneich himself, notepad in hand. Jabberwocky Jay's footlocker slipped out of police hands as one of the witnesses swiftly nabbed and secreted it away for safekeeping. But Jay lost other items, as did Moonrise Mike, Angry Arnold, Badlands Barbara, and others.

The next morning, Jay, Mike, Barbara, Joe, and Norman found themselves doing dawn jailtime for sleepcrime in a second raid, conducted reluctantly by the beat officer and wholeheartedly

5 Usually sleepers cannot be jailed for camping infractions. To punish sleepers with four hours in a cold cot-less waiting cell, sleepslayer sergeants direct their officers to charge demonstrators with "misdemeanor camping" and then jail them. This "crime," which gives the police discretion to book in jail is invariably tried as an infraction when it reaches the courts, since prosecutors refuse to file for a misdemeanor, which would allow for a jury trial and a court-appointed attorney.

There has not been one recorded misdemeanor sleeping trial in the last two years here. Yet people can be thrown into a cell in the dead of night for "crimes" that magically disappear before any courtroom accountability. Rumors are circulating that some attorneys intend to challenge this abusive process in higher courts.

5/24/90 Good Times
Creative Solutions

Yes, yes ... I have the solution to Santa Cruz's problems, but, will they listen to me?
1. Solution: Legalize and regulate the health and financial situations of prostitutes.
2. Solution: Have a short term welfare program for the homeless. Most of them can do labor work and there is always plenty of labor work. The county pays them to clean beach

areas etc. A county program of work and payment for labor, good pay, but short term, if they spend the money on drugs, we say goodbye to them.
No free food and they move somewhere else.

Emile McWalton
Santa Cruz

Point ...

Earlier in the week I wrote about the troubles of Father Thomas, the Eastern Orthodox priest arrested for panhandling at Post and Powell while collecting money for his soup kitchen. After the arrest he moved across the street to the corner next to the St. Francis Hotel, but the hotel raised heck about that. Now he's across the street at the corner of the park and everybody is finally leaving him alone.

... Counter point! Father Tom was arrested again July 5 at Civic Center: Feeding the homeless is still a crime in S.F.!

by supervising Sgt. Sealy. Why, wondered the activists, were the police suddenly provoking confrontations in the midst of negotiations and on the eve of a massive homeless demonstration?

Later that day, some answers began to take shape. When Jay, Mike, and Barbara went to the local Dick Tracy den to ask that their bedding and toothbrushes be returned, they were stalled an hour, then invited in by Sgt. Hennig. Jay reports the single-minded sergeant took Jay back to a private room, read him his rights, and then cited Jay for "Public Nuisance" and refused to return his belongings. Aside from being deceptive and vindictive, Hennig's latest hokum was strangely-timed. The local D.A.s have been holding up on prosecution of existing "Nuisance" harrassment tickets until (a) Jabberwocky Jay's Jan. 26 case and its legal questions are resolved, and (b) on-going compromise negotiations are clarified.

Quoth the Jabberwocky: "There are elements with the police department that are trying to sabotage negotiations." The soft-spoken activist added that Hennig himself had candidly confided that he had acted on his own authority without direction from above to impound homeless gear because of two phone calls and one letter complaining about the Homeless Table. Even though activists there had promptly moved to clean and straighten the area as requested, alternate storage facilities for confiscated homeless gear were non-existent.

Will the police department rein in its rogue road warriors such as "cattleherder" Hennig? Perhaps a steady stream of claims and complaints from Hennig's homeless victims will help the brass at the top take a stand.

LATE FLASH: But then again, perhaps not. On June 29 a summit between Street Scourge Chief Jack Bassett, "Kangaroo" Tom Kelly, and "Moxie" Margaret Marr among others ran into a stone wall. Marr, Jabberwocky Jay's determined public defender in the Jan 26 "Public Nuisance" pseudo-charge, presented a compromise plan to remove the disgraceful police blanketburgling cases from the courts.

The plan provided for a unilateral good-faith contraction of Homeless Table operations to business hours and agreement to suspend the nightly vigil at the post office. In return, police and city officials would meet twice monthly with demonstrators (with Bathrobespierre Robert specifically barred from negotiations). The first and foremost topic to be discussed would have been a safety zone for the vigilers to sleep in during the negotiations. Additional topics: investigation of a low-cost campground for the Santa Cruz homeless, the installation of locker facilities as an alternative to the current Homeless Table site, and Homeless Table hours of operation. Two months of successful negotiations would result in the dropping of pending camping and nuisance charges at the Homeless Table. (cont.)

6 For the recent history of the sergeant's round-em-up days, and his new policy for treating people like livestock, see p. 13a.

5. May a person assist homeless people in filling out the voter registration card?

Yes. A person may assist another in filling out a registration card.

Reliable gutter gossip has it that Bassett pointedly refused to suspend his "send in the sergeants" pogrom against the protesters--as he had several years before when asked to lighten up on harassment of sleepers. The top slumberslasher declared then that there would be no end to his war against the homeless until he had been specifically ordered to do so by the City Council. And some continued to hope that with many of its electoral supporters urging more thaw and less thunder, the Council might yet recover its political wits and guts--and act to reign in its renegade rough riders before they trample the town treasury in the coming backlash of lawsuits.

On July 5, Bassett tipped his hand by supervising the most serious raid on the Homeless Table yet--resulting in 4 new Public Nuisance citations [see story p. 4.]. Apparently the top cop is determined to hold high the "Homeless Get Out!" placard. (Several of his officers were reportedly seen with redshirts in Busenhart's Buffoon Brigade at the July 4th counter-demonstration, though we have no specifics yet.)

Street Sheet May 1990 Page 5

Sunnyvale Considers Charging Protestors

By SUSAN KOSTAL

-SUNNYVALE- The cost of civil disobedience may be going up in Sunnyvale, where officials have asked City Attorney Lou Green to look into ways the city can recover extraordinary police costs through fees on illegal activities, including those committed during protests.

The proposal includes billing arrested protesters for the cost of their arrest, much the same way California cities can bill drunken drivers for the costs associated with their arrests.

The request was spurred by the tab the police department rang up during two major demonstrations by Operation Rescue, a anti-abortion group, at a Sunnyvale abortion clinic.

In an October 1988 demonstration, 248 persons were arrested, and in a protest last month, 207 persons were arrested. About 70 extra police officers and civilians were brought in to handle the crush of arrests and bookings. Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Stone said the two protests

Demonstrators expressing controversial views could conceivably be hit with higher bills.

could cost the city as much as \$100,000.

Directed at 'Unlawful Activity'

The mayor has been called upon to defend his stand on the issue, even before a proposed ordinance has been written or put to a vote.

"This is not directed at demonstrators, but at unlawful activity in general," Stone said. "I'm an old anti-war activist myself, and I understand we have a right to demonstrate. But the penalties the courts impose do not come close to

recovering the tremendous costs involved."

Stone said peaceful protesters who are not arrested will face no costs. A fee would be based on conviction, not merely a criminal charge, he said.

Although City Attorney Green has said his office is still in the preliminary stages of reviewing Government Code sections 53150 through 53158, which allow cities to bill drunken drivers for the costs of their arrests, the proposal has raised the hackles of American Civil Liberties Union attorney John Crew.

Crew said even though he can understand Sunnyvale's financial problems, the ACLU is concerned about the chilling effect such an ordinance might have.

"People who run city governments are desperately trying to keep their heads above water," Crew said. "This is not that surprising, considering their (the city's) frustration. But boy, you really do open a can of worms or snakes once you head down this path."

continued on next page

if the protesters attract counter-demonstrations.

"The content of my views could determine my bill," Crew said.

Attorney Makes Distinction

Carol Sobel, a Los Angeles-based ACLU attorney who specializes in First Amendment issues, said the law is broadly written but is aimed at drunken drivers.

"You can't draw the analogy between drunken drivers and protesters," Sobel said. "Even if there is precedence for billing in the drunken driving arena, drunken driving is not a protected right."

"All of society benefits from the First Amendment, and we share the cost of exercising it," she said.

Green said he and deputy city attorney Donna Scott were in the "very, very preliminary" stages of reviewing the applicability of the law. He said administrative, logistical and constitutional issues must be worked out.

However, Green said his office would "not recommend something that has serious constitutional problems."

Green said he expects to give a report to the city council in the next two weeks.

S.C. Record 2/22/89

Cites Expressive Activity

Crew has spoken out against cities, including San Jose, that have used the state law to bill drunken drivers, sometimes before a conviction.

"We've got some problems with the drunken driving billings," Crew said. "The added twist in this is this has an impact on expressive First Amendment activity. In that sense it makes it even more onerous, since you are engaging in a scheme that puts a price on lawful First Amendment speech."

Crew said that in Berkeley or San Francisco, sites of hundreds of protests a year, policing demonstrations is "a cost of doing business."

In more suburban communities, people try to keep themselves insulated from urban problems, Crew said. "Free speech is being viewed as an urban problem," he said. "But it's not an urban problem - it's an institution in our society."

Crew said an ordinance could encourage the police to arrest more people, or encourage a district attorney to prosecute more people.

And, demonstrators expressing particularly controversial views could conceivably be hit with higher bills, Crew said,

BERKELEY HOMELESS FORM UNION OF THE HOMELESS

Over 40 homeless Berkeleyans met on April 10th for the first organizational meeting of the new Berkeley Union of the Homeless.

They have come together under the following mission statement: "The Berkeley Union of the Homeless will be committed to using a variety of non-violent methods to achieve our goals. We will have a positive and rational program which would make our goals realities. We will be ready to negotiate with the city or other institutions, but we will also be ready to conduct non-violent acts of protest or civil disobedience (to bring to light the issues that homeless people face) when we agree that these methods will be effective in reaching our goals. All of our methods will be non-violent."

The Union has decided to begin putting pressure on the Berkeley City Council to open up the many empty SRO hotels in Berkeley, especially the Berkeley Inn.

The Berkeley Union meetings will be every Sunday night at 6-8 pm at the Homeless Peer Chaplain's office, which is next to the Berkeley Free Clinic, at

2339 Durant Avenue at Dana in Berkeley.

For more information, call Curtis Bray at 486-1719.

Santa Cruz's Gong of 7 wanted to do this too...
←

Spiritual relief for homeless

For one reason or another, I find myself interested in the welfare of the homeless in Santa Cruz and have discussed the problem with the protesters manning the table near the Post Office. I have also talked with the Police Chief, Jack Bassett, about the situation.

The most distressing thing I have noticed is the warfare that is being waged between the opposing

parties. I can see strong cases from both sides and can easily see why the parties are so frustrated. It is another one of these American crises, where each of the opposing arguments seems to be anointed by virtue of some absolute right or wrong. At the present rate of escalation, this war will go on and on, each side getting stronger so that they might oppose an even bigger threat.

in an effort to bring peace and resolution to the conflict, a small group of concerned citizens has formed what we are calling a community prayer group. Meeting each Wednesday at 7 p.m., we hope to draw together a group of people that include Santa Cruz citizens, members of the city government, members of the police force, local businessmen and some of the homeless. Working together on a spiritual basis, we hope to generate an atmosphere of compassion, where each side can hear the other in a spirit of brotherhood. Once this is accomplished, we hope to generate concrete solutions to the present conflict, which will satisfy everyone concerned.

For more information call 388-9850. Don't let this problem grow out of hand. Join with us and give peace a try.

Ken Pine
Boulder Creek

SANTA CRUZ
SENTINEL 1990



CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COALITION

6. May people register or vote if they cannot read?

Yes. If a person cannot read or understand English, he or she can bring someone into the polling booth for assistance.

COMPLAINTS, CLAIMS, AND COURTS REVERSE SCPD TABLE-LOOTING
IN-CHAMBERS NEGOTIATIONS SPUR RELEASE OF HOMELESS PROPERTY

Within 12 hours after homeless advocates urged a truce in the city's war against street people and transients, the Santa Cruz Gang of 7 (or City Council, as it likes to be known) unleashed the SCPD dawn raiders who swooped down on Homeless Table #14 and heisted everything there. "Bust 'em and Book 'em" Baker, aka Badge #159, led the June 13th raiding party, which struck suddenly while Jabberwocky Jay was away from his post in nearby Golden West Restaurant, sipping some java. Confronting "Just Let Me Be" Jeannie, who had been asleep behind the table, Baker refused to accept her statement that she was watching the table and ordered her to leave on pain of arrest.

The city-licensed looters radioed in paddywagon and trash truck and sacked the site. Moonrise Mike, Badlands Barbara, and Truepenny Tom were also witnesses to the unsanctified seizure; Officer Baker cited no law and gave no ticket--the guntoting trollbuster simply terrified "Just Let Me Be" and took what he wanted. (cont.)

February 16, 1990

To the Santa Cruz City Council

We, the undersigned, have long awaited a particularly graphic display of this city's policy of forbidding rich and poor alike, in the words of Anatole France, from sleeping under bridges. On the night of Feb. 10-11 we learned that even this limited concept of equality is no longer in effect here. The thirty or so who were at least rich enough to afford Paul McCartney concert tickets (at the cost of a hotel room) were allowed to sleep under bridges if they so desired. All had camping apparatus, including a high-tech tent. None were disturbed in the course of their vigil, and for one night a few homeless individuals were able to find refuge from the police by joining this encampment. One draws the conclusion that the pleasures of the relatively affluent outrank the physical survival of the disenfranchised. Such inequality under the law is plainly in violation of the Equal Protection Clause, and local ordinances have similarly been used on many occasions to chill First Amendment rights.

For years citizens of this community have asked for the so-called "Camping Ban" (hereafter to be referred to as sleeping) to be repealed, or for establishment of a sleeping sanctuary. Such a small show of decency remains a viable alternative to legal action. This communication is written without benefit of counsel, and is at this point simply an informed layman's understanding of easily accessible law. There is here no attempt to suggest that the matters covered in this letter either limit or commit us to specific legal remedies.

This letter will serve notice of our intention to file a civil rights suit against the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of anyone who has been issued a sleeping violation or been informed that sleeping was unlawful. There are fair grounds to believe that untimely filing would not be a defense in such a case: the action being for denial of civil rights under color of law, triple damages would be involved.

It is also our understanding that all officials concerned may well have personal liability, and it is not impossible that the long-standing pattern of activity may be covered other Federal statutes. We mention these considerations not as a threat, nor as a revelation of our theories of liability, but simply to adumbrate the seriousness with which we regard this matter.

If you have liability insurance providing coverage for such actions, you should take this as a serious declaration of intent and notify your public and personal liability carriers. Since our prayer would be well beyond the assets of the City, other sources of insurance will doubtless be explored, and it would be unfortunate to have anyone denied coverage or defense from late notice provisions. We shall provide a grace period of two weeks, in the event that any carriers wish to negotiate separate settlements, before we engage counsel.

It has not been our wish to interfere with the efforts of Santa Cruz to rebound from the effects of the recent earthquake. Nevertheless, during this trying time city policy has had no perceptible softening, and it is preposterous to expect the most vulnerable of our citizens to indefinitely accede to the caprice of a ruling clique. It may be that the simplest way to end this unconstitutional activity once and for all is to deny the City the financial resources with which to pursue its discriminatory policies. In any event, we shall immediately seek an injunction against the sleeping ban, asking that this be in effect until the class action suit is decided.

This is obviously an enormously disruptive and costly procedure. There is a far more equitable way to lay this matter to rest. We are willing to accept either a lifting of the sleeping ban or a firm offer of a reasonably-sized sanctuary area with restroom facilities, and are willing to enter into immediate good faith discussions in pursuit of such a settlement. We offer the same time frame of two weeks (concurrently) to begin on this enterprise.

We deeply regret embarking upon this course of action, but you may refer to the Declaration of Independence for the approximate tenor of the provocations under which we do it and for the determination with which we intend to pursue it.

With all due respect,

7 Such was the phone report from both Jeannie and Jay within minutes after the police sweep. In Mulligan's court later that day, Baker denied under oath that he had threatened arrest, leading close observers of the proceedings to notice a sudden increase in the length of the officer's homeless-hunting nose.

In proceedings June 26, attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich specifically accused Baker of lying under oath--an unusual move for Grueneich, who usually takes great pains to acknowledge the integrity of the officers involved, though attacking the absurdity of the camping law.

... of the homeless...

Within hours, Moonrise, Truepenny, Bathrobespierre Robert, and others, whose property had been taken, filed seven complaints at police headquarters, then logged in six \$2000 claims for the items seized. Within three hours, most of the stolen property was returned--no questions asked. For the first time since early February, demonstrators reclaimed a police-napped Table and homeless gear, a significant victory over the current SCPD "trash the trolls" policy that may spell its doom.

Back in the courts, the first "Public Nuisance" case against the Homeless Tabluhteers continued to crawl forward--but with an unexpected result. With charges dropped last month against Grassroots Greg and Omar the Magnificent for their January 25 presence at Homeless Table #4, Jabberwocky Jay and Linda the Lark continued to face 6 months in jail and/or \$1000 fine for "nuisance" free speech at the corner of Water and Front Sts.

Jay's court-appointed lawyer, "Moxie" Margaret Marr, made her thirteenth appearance on the six-month old case--with no pre-trial hearing yet in sight. At issue was a D.A. attempt to suppress a defense discovery motion that would force Danner's Deadweights' to release all documents showing a policy of homeless harassment. (cont.)

15 transients in Santa Ana get \$50,000, chance for new life

Orange County Register
SANTA ANA - When Chuck Daigle and George Ellithorpe parted the day Thursday morning, their combined assets were 2 cents.
By 10 a.m., their joint net worth had skyrocketed by \$6,616.92.
"I've come up a long way in the world in just a matter of minutes," Daigle said.
Daigle's and Ellithorpe's newfound wealth came at the expense of the city of Santa Ana, which Thursday paid out \$50,000 to 15 homeless people as part of a settlement of a lawsuit filed in 1988.
Street people who live in the Civic Center area sued the city

after it began confiscating homeless people's bedrolls as part of a cleanup campaign.
Irvine attorney Christopher Mears, who represented the group, said he believes the settlement money - \$3,308.46 per person - will be enough to change some lives. Mears took no profit from the case but kept \$373.10 as reimbursement for expenses such as court filing fees, photocopying and mileage.
Daigle said the settlement money gave him a one-way ticket out of Santa Ana to a better life.
By 3 p.m., he was on a bus headed for Fullerton, where he planned to eat a dinner of steak and lobster,

sleep in a soft bed at the Ambassador Inn and then catch an Amtrak train to Northern California to visit relatives in Marysville and look for work.
"I figure this is the last time I'll see Orange County for a long time," said Daigle, 40. "I have a one-shot chance to change my life, and I'm going to do it. No more dreamin'."
Ellithorpe figures his fortune will be gone in a month. He said he plans to spend the money for apartment rent, eyeglasses to replace the ones he's worn for 20 years, a haircut and a shave.
"I need a rest or a vacation from

the streets for at least a month," said Ellithorpe, 61. "Then I'll hit the bricks again."
Other settlement recipients were making plans ranging from

finding a motel for the night to heading for Alaska to rejoin long-lost relatives.
Daigle said he plans to leave a case of beer behind for his buddies

at county Building 12, where he lived the past two years.
"I won't be there to share it with them," he said, "but hopefully they'll know I'm there in spirit."

Such a civil suit is presently being prepared here...
Blanket burglars Beware!

8 \$2000 is the maximum claim that can be asserted in small-claims court--the next step for those seeking to reclaim their property once the city council rejects their claims. Unless the rooms full of homeless gear taken throughout the spring is returned, owners intend to file similar claims and confront the blanketburglars in court.

9 Santa Barbara demonstrators camped out at their city hall to demand an explicit return to the "tolerance for sleepers" policy hammered out in 1986. When police seized their property in a dragnet in early May, immediate claims to the city resulted in a similar release of all property.

10 Pre-trials usually happen 2-3 weeks after a citation is given.

11 Danner's Deadweights: a bizarre collection of functionaries-trying-to-make-a-living, politicians, lawyers-who'll-serve-any-master, and clerks who spend half their time putting people away for victimless drug "crimes" and another chunk of it backing up the prejudiced policies of Javeljabber Jack Bassett's police department. (cont.)

Transient Hurt In Garbage Truck

By CHRONICLE Staff
Seattle June 11, 1990

Taylor Glenn Doughty, a transient who was sleeping in a garbage bin, was scooped up by a disposal truck that began crushing the load, breaking the sleeper's leg.

Passerby Bobby Sanders heard the screams and alerted the driver. Doughty was hospitalized.

Associated Press



► SHELTER APPROVED:

The Board of Supervisors has approved a homeless shelter for women and children at a site that was vigorously opposed by neighbors when it was proposed as a men's shelter.

Representatives for groups opposed to the proposal by the Volunteers of America and county officials to build a shelter for 54 homeless single men said Tuesday they are pleased with the compromise plan to remodel the former church at 1391 Shell Ave. for 35 to 45 homeless women and children.

That issue was again postponed (to July 6, 1:30 p.m. in Dept. E) after hours of backroom negotiations.¹² A reluctant agreement, hammered out between D.A. "Martial Law"¹³ Marigonda, the SCPD's Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig, and Marr under the leadership of Muni Court Judge "Kangaroo" Kelly, was a deal to: (a) release all property, literature, and tables stolen April 17, (b) release some property taken in the May 8 pillaging, and (c) set up immediate negotiations for time/place/manner regulations to allow unmolested homeless tabling downtown. Paddywagon Pete's ears pricked up when he heard Hennig muttering as he left the courthouse, "Barnum and Bailey justice!"¹⁴

Gobs of homeless goods are still in the lockup with action delayed because Marigonda still has not seen fit to secure police reports on the last four police fishing expeditions. No legitimate explanations--much less, citations--were given for the April 17, May 8, May 23, and May 24th raids, nor has the SCPD-D.A. conspiracy come up with any charges for their legalized robbery operation.

Still awaiting release: at least 4 Homeless Tables in protective custody, political literature and petitions, and more homeless bedding and clothing taken April 7, May 23 and May 24th. The original Jan. 26th "Public Nuisance" charges against Jabberwocky and Linda are hanging over their heads. And, to keep the taxpayer's dollars in circulation, the D.A.s have charged "Paddywagon" Pete Pascoe with yet another nuisance "Nuisance" violation for operating Homeless Table #6 on April 7th. (cont.)

12 On July 6, Muni Judge "Kangaroo" Kelly heard two-and-a-half hours of testimony from Hennig and an hour from Bath-Robespierre in a hearing to recover Jay's seized property and set some legal limits on the "snatch and seal" system police are using to spread fear among the demonstrators. Kelly has thus far refused to order the property returned though there are ample photographs that could be used in any legitimate prosecution not primarily concerned with harassment. The judicial charade continues July 11 at 1:30 PM in Dept. E.

13 Paul Marigonda, up-and-coming prosecutor, earned his nickname by working against the homeless feeding group Food Not Bombs in San Francisco several years ago. Signing on with Danner's Deadweights, Marigonda earned his spurs spending county money to send Sandra Loranger to jail for serving food at the Town Clock last year. He continues to obediently and enthusiastically argue the legality of police persecution of the homeless as the taxpayers foot the mounting bill.

14 But, see Late Flashes, p.13. for news on the derailing of the negotiations by Hennig's loyal overlord, Backwater Bassett.

August 29, 1989
Editor, San Jose Mercury-News

Dear Ms. or Sir,

Columnist Lee Quarnstrom has been venting his spleen at homeless rights activists for nearly a year. His bum-busting broadsides twist and ignore basic facts in the year-long controversy in Santa Cruz over the Sleeping Ban and the "jail the soup" police raids.

Santa Cruz, with its suppo sedly "progressive" City Council majority has routine enforced an 11 p.m.-8:30 a.m. prohibition on sleeping in vehicles and outdoors, which largely impacts homeless, transients, and unwary tourists. The offenders are roused, given expensive tickets (\$40-\$130)--that the homeless can afford to pay no more than a hotel bill--and then jailed for warrants if caught a second time.

In a protest against this city ordinance (6.36), which the Council could easily change, and against violence towards the homeless, activist Jane Imler and others began a vigil last November at the Town Clock. The vigil included a bowl of hot soup against the winter cold for anyone who wanted. Imler had conducted similar vigils in the fall of 1985 and 1986 in support of a homeless shelter--where vigilers and homeless received food--without incident. But this time, apprehensive of losing money during "the Christmas season", city authorities contacted county health and the SCPD to scare off Imler and her co-workers. When that contemptible tactic failed, the city arranged (but did not fund) a temporary food program back of the River St. mini-Shelter throughout December.

When that program ended (for lack of funds), homeless activists resumed feeding the hungry at the Town Clock. Several dozen police staged a raid in full-dress riot gear with body shields and truncheons drawn on January 3rd, and continued arresting people over the course of the next few months, seizing food in the process using a never-before-seen "health" statute. When activists applied for a permit, they were refused. When they continued to feed the homeless, they were arrested for "operating a food facility without a permit." No specific health hazards were ever alleged or proven. Two people--Brian Staley and Sandra Loranger--eventually went to jail for several weeks after costly trials. More trials are planned for September against Loranger (again!), myself, Malu Pinecrone, and Dan Johnson.

Last May intermediaries proposed a plan to set up a city-approved program to reestablish a nightly meal using some city-funding for facilities. "Progressive" councilmembers Laird and Wormhoudt torpedoed the plan because they disliked the activist's rhetoric and on-going protest feeding program. Throughout the summer, there was no evening food program for the hungry, other than fruit hastily and surreptitiously distributed on the mall, sneaked past the police blockade.

Recently, city authorities have again offered to approve (but not necessarily fund) a feeding program some distance from city center at the mini-Shelter, run by Imler. They are to be commended for this step, however late and grudging. (Perhaps future negotiations will lead to an acknowledgement of the right to sleep as well as the right to give and receive food.)

Throughout this controversy, Quarnstrom has not had the courage, sense, decency, or even the simple professionalism to inter-

view (or even speak with) one of the homeless activists he so regularly maligns in his columns. His hostile characterizations of the homeless and the street community as "bums," "moochers," and "drunks" is standard old boy bigotry. His dismissal of activists as "disruptive" publicity seekers recalls the epithets that local rednecks flung at civil-rights workers down South in the early 60s. As a one-time sympathizer with struggles for elementary human rights, Quarnstrom might try laying aside his prejudice and getting out on the streets to investigate what may be the major civil-rights struggle of the 90s. It is important that Mercury-News readers have access to accurate information to correct the distortions he has been peddling.

Sincerely,

Robert Norse

Street people convention unwelcome

We have just returned from a few days spent in Morro Bay and while there were discussing the fact that we had not seen any street people in the town. While returning on the frontage road from a drive to Cayucos, we came upon three raunchy-looking transients with three grocery carts piled high with their belongings by the side of the road and on one of the carts was a large sign that said, "Santa Cruz July 4."

Does this mean that we will be invaded by a group of street people who will be holding their own convention here on July 4? You can bet it will not be for a purely patriotic reason. It's a fact that Santa Cruz is known across the country as a haven for street people. Ask around and you will find out where they came from and why they are here.

It was good news that housing for seniors is to be built on the Pacific Avenue Mall, but on the other hand, they will be subjected to purse snatching, panhandling, foul language and other dirty habits from the mall inhabitants. I fear that it will take several years before the mall is rebuilt and for obvious reasons, it will not be easy to attract a large department store to downtown Santa Cruz. In the meantime, a good many of us have found other places to shop, easily accessible by bus, where there is no harassment.

M.L. Hawkins
Santa Cruz

6/20/90

New York subways eject panhandlers

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL 4/2/90

NEW YORK — Transit officials have passed new guidelines that call for all panhandlers, even those who only silently extend a cup, to be tossed out of the subway system, it was reported Thursday.

The guidelines follow a federal appeals court decision earlier this month that upheld a Transit Authority ban on begging in the subways. The court said begging was not a constitutionally protected form of speech.

Transit Police Chief William Bratton told officers to toss out panhandlers on their first encounter. "Ejection, rather than warning, will be the preferred and recommended method."



Lee Quarnstrom

still
troll-
bashing
after
all
these
years

A jug of wine far, far away

SINCE THE earthquake, many of us haven't had as much opportunity as before to encounter the bums of Pacific Avenue.

Two things happened when downtown Santa Cruz, or much of it, fell as a result of the quake: Those of us who worked or shopped on Pacific Avenue made fewer visits to the area, and the street people who'd established raggedy little outposts in front of the old Bank of America, in front of the Plaza Bakery and out in front of the Bookshop Santa Cruz and other nearby businesses were displaced.

But, just as water seeks its own level, bums have a way of seeping through rubble and re-establishing their shabby little enclaves in spots where they can continue to annoy the most people with the least amount of effort.

Two of the major post-earthquake hangouts for street people are the county courthouse, where they seem to sit around and smoke a lot of cigarettes, and near the steps of the main Post Office.

For a while, Santa Cruz lost interest in and forgot about the bums who used to make life miserable for people who worked or shopped along the Pacific Garden Mall -- although, of course, more and more local people were saying that they were refusing to shop downtown because they were tired of being hassled, panhandled and verbally abused by the drunks lounging along the street.

LET ME MAKE it clear that I am talking here about bums, not about homeless people. To me, homeless people -- folks who don't have homes but want them and are looking for ways to take care of themselves and their families -- deserve our help. And I am not talking about people with mental problems, although there are a few wackos who used to make walking up and down Pacific Avenue a bit of an adventure.

I am talking about drunks. I am talking about drug addicts. I am talking about drug dealers. I am talking about those damned winos who loll on the sidewalks and pass out in the planters and urinate in doorways and puke in the gutter and who hassle you unmercifully for money for their cheap booze.

Now that the rebuilding process is under way -- or on the verge of being under way; at least two rebuilding projects have been approved -- bums are on our minds again.

Let's face it: It's going to take investment by business people and landowners to get Pacific Avenue rebuilt. Whether it's done along the lines of the old Garden Mall or whether it assumes a new -- and, let's hope, not grotesque -- form, it's going to take some commitment by people with money. You and I may not like everything that goes up along the avenue, but with some negotiation and public pressure we can hopefully avoid either a strip shopping mall or a fake New England fishing village motif.

And let's face this, too: People with money don't want to sink their bucks into a place where bums are going to scare away renters and shoppers.

In fact, the issue of what to do about the ragtag gang of street people has dominated recent discussions about rebuilding downtown. The vast majority of Santa Cruzans, as far as I can tell, don't want a bunch of derelicts making their new downtown seem like a Skid Road.

ON THE other hand, civil libertarians say -- and they are correct -- that we cannot ban people from public places just because we don't like the way they look.

So far, thank God, I haven't heard anyone say they actually want bums on the mall.

This seems like an insoluble dilemma. In fact, task forces have been formed to see whether anyone can come up with some new ideas on how to get rid of bums without infringing on their civil rights.

One thing that might work would be to ban smoking. Virtually every wino I've seen in town smokes incessantly except when completely comatose.

Since these bums have the same civil liberties as every other American, why can't they shoulder some of the same responsibilities that the rest of us have? This sounds rive, I understand, but the American guarantees of freedoms of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness are based on a shared responsibility for the commonweal.

When and if that concern for the well-being of all of us, communally as well as each of us individually, goes by the wayside our whole system will vanish, too.

Winos passed out on the sidewalk may have neither the inclination nor the ability to contribute to the welfare of their fellow citizens, but they can do one little thing:

They can get off our sidewalks and out our faces.

I'd be willing to contribute to a fund to jugs of cheap, fortified wine and some lead to shelters at some remote spot far from center of town if the drunks would be willing to stay there and to dump their "leaders" who move them around like so many cattle from city council meeting to city council meeting.

Would this work? Would it be legal? I don't know. Let's give it a try.

February 5, 1990

Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mayor Wormhoudt:

Psychiatric Inmates' Rights Collective would like to express it's view concerning the St. George Hotel, the alleged harassment of homeless activists and evening meals for the homeless.

If possible, the St. George Hotel should be saved. There is conflicting engineering studies on whether this hotel can be preserved. What is the opinion of your city's building inspection department? Does the city wish to have residential hotels or other forms of housing for low income individuals available?

We are concern about an incident involving the Santa Cruz Police making a midnight raid on the Homeless table and throwing away the table, blankets and other material. Among the other material, was written material from our organization concerning side effects of psychotropic drugs. We feel this type of behavior should not be tolerated. We hope we don't have to contact the Attorney General of California to take control over your law enforcement agency.

Finally, we like to see the conflict between Calamity Jane's Cupboard and Support Outreach Services be resolved. We would like to know if your city trying to allow the evening meals to continue?

We request a response regarding these matters or related issues.

Sincerely,

Fred Barnett
Psychiatric Inmates' Rights Collective
P.O. Box 299
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0299

Fred to Mardi ↑

- 176 -

10040 Hwy 9 #1
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

April 24, 1990

Watsonville Register-Pajaronian

Dear Editor:

That Santa Cruz City Council is at it again! Back in March they arrested me for talking too long and hard about homeless people being arrested for sleeping. Then, in mid-April they got tired of hearing that 50 more homeless would be on the streets in May with the ending of the Satellite Shelter Program. No beds but the sidewalk and no legal place to sleep. Homeless, get out of town!

So the Council did a quick change of its own rules. Homeless rights are never on the formal City Council agenda: John Laird and Mardi Wormhoudt see to that. When have we been able to talk about police stealing blankets, political literature, etc. as they did April 17th in 5 raids--all within 12 hours? At Oral Communications, when anybody is supposed to be allowed three minutes.

But when we raise our voices, that hits a little too close to home. When the Council hears about the Homeless Convention planned for the week of July 4 when hundreds if not thousands of homeless will be in town to break the Sleeping Ban, they don't like that. So they changed their rules; shortening speaking time total to 30 minutes and allowing the Mayor to select one speaker over another, if that speaker spoke the week before.

But that wasn't enough for this crew. When I got up to make my presentation at the last meeting (April 24), they had their police remove me again. No obscenities, no insults, not even any strong criticism. They couldn't stand silent meditation. They don't like noise; they don't like silence. What a bunch! Good thing it's an election year.

Truly truly yours,

Leith Austin
Leith Austin

April 21, 1990

Judge Kelly,

Following up my note of 4/11. Re: the April 7 "Public Nuisance" seizures of the bedding, backpacks, clothing of Jay Green and 3 other men (as well as my own political literature). D.A. P. Bazar told me a week ago she would review the police report to see if the photographs were sufficient "evidence" to release the seized material. She has not called me or spoken to any of whose property she refuses to release.

Regarding the Homeless Table and additional property and literature seized April 17, though no Public Nuisance cite was issued and though several individuals attempted to reclaim the material, Sgt. St. Ange and the officers with him insisted on calling the items "abandoned." When contacted at the police station by the individuals affected and by Referee Mulligan, the police noted the material was "tagged as evidence at the warehouse."

These transparent antics to drive the protesters away from the corner are unworthy of the department and sully the legal system when it tolerates and even encourages these punitive fishing expeditions. There actually is no court date set at which attorneys (if the homeless could secure one) could argue for the return of their clean clothes and sleeping gear. The legal sanctions these folks face if convicted of Public Nuisance, the actual harassment they suffer nightly, and, most important, the lack of alternatives is adequate reason to call a halt to these curbside cop capers. No attorneys (Ray G. included) are available to do the many hours of work to draw up a Writ for a hearing in the Superior Court. Recent police actions escalate and harden the climate of tension in the city, provoking the homeless beyond endurance. If there is no legal avenue to pursue redress of grievances and to reclaim if not to retain one's own property, then one is reduced to desperation.

We understand you have twice offered to have the stolen material released if its owners agreed not to leave it near the Table. Perhaps when there are functioning and accessible lockers in town, this offer may be more acceptable till then. Until that time, the threat of 45 days in jail on public nuisance convictions (for those who refuse probation) seems ample deterrent and punishment for their "crimes." It seems a little sadistic and tacky to add to these burdens, a constant climate of fear where the homeless feel they have to hide their stuff lest it be trashed or locked away as "evidence." Please order the police to return to these people their property, their literature, their Homeless Table.

Thanks,

Robert Norse

Loudmouth Leith still speaks! ↑

Elizabeth Gips, CHANGES, 3288 Union St. Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060
Friday, March 30, 1990

Hi, I'm not mail-merging this, because I haven't time, but it is indeed a PERSONAL appeal to all city officials. Are you aware of the terrible reputation we're gaining nationally? This clipping is from, of all places, *Penthouse Magazine*, where did they get the information??

I'm aware of the polarization in Santa Cruz and of the economic problems plaguing us in the aftermath of the quake.

Still, do you know that many of the people on the street, utilizing the Interfaith Church Satellite Program, are working and unable to afford first, last and cleaning deposit.

As a tax-paying and very concerned citizen, who was homeless herself for a while ten years ago, I urge you to please try to do some revolution in your own heads about the camping ban. IT IS TRULY INFAMOUS. We could have a policed, clean area where people could have showers, get to work, get training, and where those released from state institutions would at least have a place to be during the day and a place to sleep at night unassailed by the police. It would be a deterrent to deviant behavior on our streets.

In spite of all these years of fear on both sides of a polarized issue, it is never too late to become compassionate. In that compassion might lie the economic salvation of our beautiful town whose national reputation is now guaranteed to keep tourists away from us!

With much love and sincerity,

Elizabeth Gips +
Paddy Long

who are the real bums here?

A Bum is a Bum

Editor - A bum is a bum is a bum. Stop equating them with the homeless.

It appears that the mayor and the Board of Supervisors will do nothing to clean up the parks and streets. It is amazing that these bums have so much more political clout than the taxpayers of this city.

Why does the mayor and Board of Supervisors cater to this group? It is time that the citizens who want to live in a clean environment and want a city that is back under the control of the taxpayers do something.

S. FILLMORE San Francisco FRANCIS D. WEDENICKS JULY 5, 1990

we don't stop bums in business suits and bureaucrat bums from sleeping!

READING BETWEEN the lines of official statements in the last few days, it's easy to see that City Hall knows the multiservice centers aren't enough but hopes no one will care enough to ask too many questions.

When reporters momentarily deviate from the official line to mention the disparity between 400 beds and, say, 2,000 homeless, officials reply that beds will be found for everyone.

In other words, The City is back to rolling crisis management, but this time under the PR umbrella of the multiservice centers. They're the Potemkin Villages of the homeless problem.

Here's where logic, proportion and compassion clash - even though the multiservice centers won't cure homelessness or even provide a bed for all those without one, they're evidently as far as the citizenry is willing to go.

What we're left with is a frightening polarity. At one extreme are the increasingly desperate homeless and their decreasingly powerful champions.

Though the antis have the snappier slogan - "Homeless, go home!" - neither has a solution. And the rest of us are tired of the whole problem.

Slogan for the '90s: 'Homeless go home!'



THERE IS NOW such a thing, believe it or not, as an anti-homeless activist. I saw one on TV the other night.

Anti-homeless activists in Santa Cruz last week came up with something more logical: "Homeless, go to hell!"

Sometimes in this column I use the phrase "know-nothing." It has a specific political meaning: slogans and positions that sound great but ignore immutable facts.

The anti-homeless activist I saw on TV the other night had no program. She just criticized the homeless. She accused the homeless of having a "secret agenda."

AS OF LAST week, San Francisco has an excuse to harden up on the homeless. Mayor Agnos' long-promised "multiservice centers" are open, one at Polk and Geary, one at Fifth and Bryant.

They're not exactly multiservice yet, and they're not exactly at full capacity yet, and even when they are they won't have enough beds but...

Some observers say Agnos deserves credit for enduring the cries of the know-nothings while he developed the multiservice centers. Rather than doing the politically expedient thing, goes this argument, he held off on "sweeping" the homeless from Civic Center Plaza until both centers were open.

Yes, Agnos does deserve credit if we're to compare him to someone of zero vision, like Supervisor Bill Maher, who sounds remarkably like the anti-homeless activists in Santa Cruz.

Agnos has done all he can do for the homeless within the boundaries of public tolerance in a city financially strained in every direction by urban horrors - drug crimes, AIDS, a huge medically uninsured population and tattered schools.

Having given Agnos credit, let us acknowledge that the multiservice centers, with their 400 beds for how many thousand homeless, are not enough. They are not going to end homelessness, and they are not going to get the ragged army off our streets and out of our nostrils.

The multiservice centers' central political purpose is to demonstrate that something organized and official is being done for the most powerless sector of our citizenry. Now the boot comes down. Now the Civic Center is "cleaned out."

The battle now moves to the media. Saturday's Chronicle account of the clearing of Civic Center Plaza read like an environmental triumph - a stinking Hooverville has been turned back into sylvan parkland for laughing children and relieved old folks.

HAVING ARRIVED IN COLLEGE DAWN TWO WEEKS BEFORE REGISTRATION JESUS HAS LOTS OF TIME TO KILL. AS WE ALL KNOW, KILLING TIME WITHOUT SPENDING MONEY IS BAD BUSINESS.

JESUS learns a thing or two by Foolbert '90 made to laugh at someone's name - Shyfrom

TO START WITH YOU AIN'T JUMPING WHEN I SAY FRAG! OH, I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST TAKING A LITTLE SNOOZE

A LITTLE PLASTIC CARD WITH MOLES WIT I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD TO KEEP IT, SO I THREW IT AWAY!

NO, NO, I NEVER CARRY ANYTHING WITH ME AT ALL. HA!

OKAY! MOVE IT, BUDDY

TAKING A SNOOZE, I BET! HAVE YOU GOT BUSINESS IN OUR FAIR CITY, SIR?

IN JUST STARTING NEXT WEEK... WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL UP DEAN DOWDFIELD? SHOW ME YOUR I.D. SO I'LL KNOW WHO TO ASK ABOUT!

THREW IT AWAY? WHAT HAVE YOU GOT? NOTHING! I TRAVEL LIGHT.

NO MONEY! NO JOB! NO ADDRESS! THE ARCHETYPAL VAAGRANT!

HUH? WHY WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?

YES, I'M ON THE FACULTY OVER AT THE COLLEGE. YOU? CAN YOU PROVE IT?

I.D.? I HAVEN'T GOT ONE. COME ON! THE COLLEGE WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU ONE. IF YOU WERE ON THE LEVEL.

YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS HERE IN TOWN? A BANK ACCOUNT? CASH IN YOUR POCKET? SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? DRIVER'S LICENSE? CHARGE ACCOUNTS? CAR TITLE? VOTER REGISTRATION? TAX RECEIPTS? CHANGE FOR THE WASHING MACHINE?

I HADN'T REALIZED IT WAS A CRIME TO RENOUNCE ONE'S WORLDLY POSSESSIONS.

Street people hysteria

Vision Santa Cruz's concerns and the "street people problem" made me wonder why they think the Santa Cruz City Council is not doing enough "to clean up the streets."

Many of the most famous retail districts in the United States have what the local merchants call "street people." I go shopping in San Francisco and San Jose and I feel much less safe when I see unusual looking people.

Santa Cruz has an expanding University of California campus and a beach which people persist in enjoying. Growing numbers of people are bound to go shopping at our mall. Before the quake, everyone was concerned about higher rents and "Carmelization," but the vacancy rate always remained low at the mall.

The merchants, retailers and property owners who are concerned about their future investment would probably feel safer investing in Main Street at Disneyland or Carmel or Mendocino.

Don Peattie s.c. Sentinel 5/14/90 Aptos

Backing up the June 13th homeless victory, Grinning Ray Grueneich, champion of the low-income campers, announced his intention of suing the city and the D.A.'s office for its Christmas eve attack on the Homeless Tablers, which seized blankets, clothing, table, and even the Xmas tree there last year. Moonrise Mike Carreiro said he was carrying forward his \$2000 claim against the city, to small-claims court, for property trashed. And rumors persisted that other sympathetic attorneys were readying a massive civil suit to enjoin further police plundering parties and secure damages for past ones.

A-2—Tuesday, June 12, 1990 — Santa Cruz Sentinel

'A refrigerator without a light'

Sometimes, a dumpster is all you have

By GREG BEEBE
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — You can find the darnedest things in city trash bins, say three admitted "dumpster divers."

"I already scored this morning at the county government center dumpster," said Jay Green, 33, a "houseless" man active in the protests against the city's camping ban. "I found a six-pack of beer and a wallet with a bunch of identification in it," Green said. "They don't lock the county building dumpsters up, but every once in a while this one sheriff will come out and yell at us."

"I've found blankets stained with blood, bicycle parts, all sorts of things. When they dispose of evidence, it's always exciting," Green said.

"I found a big baggie with a white substance in it, a pound of it. It was later identified as baking soda," Green said with a smile.

Life on the streets sometimes calls for drastic survival tactics, said Green and dumpster-diving cohorts Bob Hillman II, 20, and Colvin "Pete" Pascoe, 39.

Pascoe, a Vietnam veteran who said he "got shot at in rice paddies" and suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, said dumpsters have "saved my life at times. When you're out there traveling around, stuck between cities with no money, sometimes a dumpster is all you have."

"I usually try to avoid eating out of dumpsters, but there are times when it's unavoidable," Pascoe said.

Green and Hillman consider themselves "houseless" rather than homeless. Both claim to have homes — Green in Los Angeles, Hillman in Boston — they just don't have homes in Santa Cruz. Pascoe, who suffers from "claustrophobia" as a result of his PTSD, is originally from Pittsburgh, Pa.; he has traveled across the U.S. "from Fort Lauderdale to San Diego five times."

All three men are experienced in sifting through garbage for food, fun and profit. But they hesitated to name the best dumpsters in town, because "we don't want to disclose some of our sources," Green said.

"Places that leave food that's already wrapped — bakeries, certain restaurants — are the best," Hillman said.

"Pizza places and fast-food joints are always good," said Pascoe.

"Sometimes if you hang out outside a pizza place until they close, the pizza will still be warm, or they'll even just give it to you," Hillman said.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

'Pete' Pascoe peers in to see if a meal awaits.

"We don't mind eating seconds. They won't let us cook on the streets, so it's a matter of knowing what dumpsters to look in," Green said.

Hillman explained that a experienced dumpster diver uses his senses — smelling, touching, squeezing — to determine what is passable dumpster fare.

"After a while you get a sense — you smell it or look at it and you can tell if it's edible or not," Pascoe said.

"It's kind of like reaching into a refrigerator that doesn't have a light," said Hillman.

Green said he never dived for food until he came to Santa Cruz and became active in the protests against the city's camping ban, or "sleeping ban" as it is called by activists for the homeless.

from merchants. The only reason that

would gain our attention is trespassing behind buildings or throwing garbage around or setting fire to a dumpster."

Pascoe said he once found a broken Mickey Mouse watch in a rhino lunchbox. "I took it to a pawn shop, and it was worth \$450, unfixed."

"You know," said Green, "there's a whole new science developing at universities in 'garbology.' Dumpster divers have been doing it for years and nobody calls us scientists."

"I went dumpster diving for the tables and chairs at the homeless table in front of the post office," he said. "I get all my stationery from the dumpster at the county building."

"Today, I managed to get a full box of tobacco," Hillman said. "You never know what you're gonna find," Green said.

Green and a homeless buddy were surprised last week to find several en-

'There's a whole new science developing at universities in garbology. Dumpster divers have been doing it for years and nobody calls us scientists.'

— Jay Green, 'houseless' man

velopes full of blood samples in the county building dumpster. Green turned the potentially dangerous vials over to county Environmental Health Department, which traced them to a sheriff's deputy. Such evidence is supposed to be turned over to the Coroner's Office for safe disposal, said a spokeswoman from the Health Department.

"I'm from Boston, and I dumpster-dived there in the past. But it's a totally different style out here," Hillman said. "Here, people indiscreetly leave things, leave things purposefully for us."

Some California cities have advised merchants to pour bleach over discarded food to foil dumpster divers. "And a lot of people are locking up their dumpsters. Some of them are disposing of things they don't want people to know about," Green said.

Santa Cruz Police Lt. Dave Larson said rummaging through dumpsters — or "rhino lunchboxes," as some members of the force call them — is against the law.

"It is private property until the garbage people collect it and take it to the dump. When somebody throws their trash out, that is private property and nobody has a right to it," Larson said.

"Obviously, it's not real high on our priority list," Larson said. "At this point, we only respond to complaints from merchants. The only reason that would gain our attention is trespassing behind buildings or throwing garbage around or setting fire to a dumpster."

Pascoe said he once found a broken Mickey Mouse watch in a rhino lunchbox. "I took it to a pawn shop, and it was worth \$450, unfixed."

"You know," said Green, "there's a whole new science developing at universities in 'garbology.' Dumpster divers have been doing it for years and nobody calls us scientists."

S.F. EXAMINED 5/90
Cursing cop not a crime, court rules

FROM EXAMINER STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

"Boorish," yes. "Crass and disgraceful," said the judges. But no, it's not a crime to yell an obscenity at a cop along with a flip of the finger.

It's a form of free speech.

In a 3-0 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has upheld a lower-court ruling that tosses out the arrest of Ralph Duran in November 1987 by an offended police officer in Douglas, Ariz.

Judge Alex Kozinski said, "The freedom of individuals to oppose or challenge police action verbally without thereby risking arrest is one important characteristic by which we distinguish ourselves from a police state."

In the ruling issued Monday, he said officers may resent obscene words and vulgar gestures but "may not exercise the awesome power at their disposal to punish individuals."

The San Francisco-based court said the case opened when police were called to a Douglas hotel where Duran was drunkenly threatening a bartender. Duran then swore at Officer Gilbert Aguilar, who escorted him to a car driven by Duran's wife, Alice.

The court said Aguilar then saw a one-finger gesture of disrespect emerge from the car's passenger window. He followed the car to the couple's mobile home. When Duran continued to swear at the officer, he was arrested for investigation of disorderly conduct.

Said the court, "Criticism of the police is not a crime..."

■ SAN FRANCISCO — In an attempt to match the increasingly deadly firepower of San Francisco drug dealers, the Police Commission has authorized officers to carry semi-automatic weapons capable of firing up to 15 rounds in quick succession.

Wednesday night, the commission approved the new rapid-fire weapons that officers may use instead of the standard-issue .357-Magnum revolver. The semi-automatic pistols approved are .45-caliber and 9mm pistols.

However, the officers who choose to carry the semi-automatic pistols will have to pay for the guns themselves, because the department cannot afford them, according to Deputy Chief Frank Reed. The guns cost from \$285 to \$800.

6/12/90 SP Editor
Overdue Coverage
Editor — Thank you for your long-overdue coverage (Chronicle, May 29-30) on the Office of Citizen Complaints and the San Francisco Police Department. The statistics on sustained cases by the OCC are simply appalling and intolerable. Like most everywhere else in this country, the police visited our schools and talked to us from time to time. I grew up believing that the police were our friends, that they were all a bunch of nice guys.
Like your articles say, it is true that the majority of the policemen are professionals and it is a sad shame that a few sadistic and criminal-minded individuals are allowed to disguise themselves in uniforms.
My hat is off to all good citizens who have the courage to stand by their principles and fight back regardless of the pain they know they will endure. These are citizens that in the end will help to preserve freedom and democracy in our country. If we do not take a stand against these kinds of injustices, we will only send a message to the city and the police that it is OK to brutalize others, and these incidents will only proliferate.
It's bad enough that we allow some criminals to walk the streets, it's absolutely abominable that we allow them to wear the uniform of peace and justice.
NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

Rapid-Fire Guns OKd For Cops

S.F. Pays in Many Suits Against Cops

Over half result in damages, but few officers are disciplined

SF CHRONICLE 5-30-90

By Bill Wallace
Chronicle Staff Writer

SPECIAL REPORT

Second of two parts

San Franciscans who believe they have been mistreated by police are far more likely to have their complaint treated favorably by the courts than by the city's police disciplinary system.

In the past six years, the city has paid damages, either through jury awards or out-of-court settlements, in 54 percent of the 189 adjudicated lawsuits filed against the Police Department for officer misconduct.

During the same period, fewer than 1 percent of 10,128 police misconduct allegations filed with the Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC) resulted in disciplinary action.

A Chronicle study of every citi-

zen complaint, disciplinary action and lawsuit involving police misconduct in the past six years also found that:

■ Many police misconduct lawsuits against the city involve the same officers — 69 officers were named in two or more lawsuits. Thirty-two had been named in two or more lawsuits that ended in cash payments.

■ Only four of 188 officers named in the suits that resulted in out-of-court settlements or judgments were ever disciplined by the San Francisco Police Commission

in connection with their actions.

■ Being sued repeatedly does not necessarily hinder promotion or assignment to train recruits in the field. Of the 32 officers whose actions have resulted in two or more lawsuit payouts, two have been promoted to lieutenant and two to sergeant. Several have been named to elite units, and others have been appointed Field Training Officers.

■ A small group of San Francisco police officers generates a large number of the police misconduct lawsuits brought against the city. Seventy officers — about 4 percent of the 1,775-member force — account for nearly 40 percent of all lawsuits filed since 1984.

The level of misconduct al-
Page A8 Col. 1

From Page 1

leged in some of the lawsuits is significant: In one, a pregnant woman told authorities that officers kicked, beat and choked her; in another, a taxi driver said he was clubbed with a flashlight and choked unconscious after stopping in a no-parking zone; in a third, a motorist who ran a traffic light said officers kicked and punched him while his 10-year-old son watched.

All three of these plaintiffs won sizable out-of-court settlements from the city, but none of the officers was ever brought before the Police Commission for disciplinary action because, until recently, there was no procedure for review of misconduct court cases.

Such incidents can have lasting effects for those involved. "When I see police on the street, I look the other way," said Walter Young, a light bus driver who won a \$20,000 civil rights judgment from the department after he alleged that police beat him and called him racial names during his 300 arrest for double-parking. "I don't look in their faces. I'm still afraid, and I think I always will be."

They can also have a demoralizing effect on the police officers who stay out of trouble — the vast majority.

"Most officers are professionals, and they see these bums around them getting away with his stuff," said Assistant Public Defender Peter Keane, a past president of the San Francisco bar association. "As people of good will, it's offensive to them. They are the forgotten majority."

Looking for Pattern

Although being named in a lawsuit — even one that is ultimately settled — does not mean an officer is guilty, some experts believe that repeated lawsuits and payouts against particular officers can be a warning that they are a disciplinary problem.

Samuel Walker, a professor who specializes in criminal justice at the University of Nebraska, be-

lieves the pattern. Many cases may involve incidents that occurred when nobody was around to see them, and the evidence against the officer may be so weak that the complaint can't be sustained. But if the pattern of complaints involves numerous allegations that are very similar, it may be itself indicative that the officer is a problem."

In San Francisco, State Court of Appeal Judge Francis McCarty reached a similar conclusion in a 1988 decision after noting that a San Francisco police officer, charged with assault and battery of a hotel owner, had been the target of six other citizen complaints.

"Evidence that (the officer) had a practice of bullying and assaulting other persons under his custody without provocation or apparent reason would tend to show that the injuries suffered by the plaintiff were... inflicted intentionally and with malice," said McCarty, writing for a unanimous three-judge panel that ordered a new trial in a lawsuit against the officer because evidence of the other incidents had been withheld from the jury.

Police union officials agree that multiple lawsuits can indicate that an officer may require disciplinary action.

"It would be foolhardy for me to say that that doesn't indicate a problem," said Paul Chignell, vice president of the San Francisco Police Officers Association, but he added, "Just because a police officer is sued and the city pays out a certain amount of money to settle it doesn't mean there should be disciplinary action."

Jordan Responds

In an interview, Police Chief Frank Jordan said the number of officers who have gone unpunished, even though their actions led to damage payments, "seems to be inordinately high."

He said the department began screening claims against police last year to ensure that disciplinary investigations are conducted when warranted. So far, the department has examined more than 100

claims filed against police in 1989 and 1990.

"We are definitely looking at every single one as a potential disciplinary case," Jordan said. In cases where the OCC has not already opened an investigation into the complaint, Jordan said the department's Management Control Division will probe for possible disciplinary charges.

Jordan expressed concern that in the past, the department promoted some officers who were the target of misconduct complaints. He said the department is reviewing officers' disciplinary records more carefully now, "and I think it (lawsuits and disciplinary actions) will have more of a bearing in the future than it has in the past."

"I even see a possibility of delaying someone, or not allowing them to have a promotion," Jordan said.

Suit for Taxpayers

Some critics of the police department believe taxpayers are paying the price for a lenient police disciplinary system.

A taxpayer lawsuit filed in 1989 by Ruth Keady, a lawyer who reports for the San Francisco Daily Journal legal newspaper, alleges that tax money is being squandered settling police misconduct lawsuits. The suit asks the court to order improvements in police training, discipline and supervision.

Keady said she filed her suit after noticing that the city was settling or losing a large number of lawsuits alleging police misconduct, and the officers named in them were never charged by the police department with wrongdoing.

Losing lawsuits is unlikely to deter errant officers from future misconduct, said Professor Edward Littlejohn, a criminal justice specialist from Wayne State University Law School in Detroit.

"If they lose a lawsuit, the money doesn't come out of their pockets," said Littlejohn.

City Attorney Responds

However, City Attorney Louise Renne said the amount San Francisco pays out to settle misconduct suits is not out of line in comparison with other communities.

Last year, for instance, San Francisco paid out \$931,003 in judgments and settlements against the police. Oakland, which has a smaller population and fewer police, paid \$683,385. San Diego, with roughly the same size population and police force as San Francisco, paid out \$3.2 million.

Renne also said damage awards in misconduct suits are unrelated to the effectiveness of the police department's disciplinary system.

Many lawsuits against the department are settled to avoid the expense of further litigation, Renne said. Some have little merit,

and even when juries award damages to victims of police misconduct, they "can be wrong," she said.

Jury Felt Sorry

In one recent case that ended in a \$32,000 judgment, "The jury really didn't think the officers had done anything wrong but they felt sorry for the guy," Renne said. "What are you going to do with a case like that?"

Susan Rubenstein, the lawyer who filed that suit on behalf of Thomas Connolly, disputed Renne's account. She said one of the officers kicked her client in the groin without provocation, threw him over his shoulder onto the floor, punched him numerous times with his fist and sprayed him with MACE.

Connolly had allegedly harassed workers at a construction site next to his home. When the police arrived, Connolly was back inside his house. The officer went inside to question Connolly about the incident. Connolly said the officer attacked him; the officer said he was attacked by Connolly.

"We tried to settle the case before trial for \$35,000, which was \$3,000 more than the jury awarded, but the city attorney only offered \$1,000," Rubenstein said. "When you add in the legal fees, court costs, expert witnesses and so on, the city ended up paying more than what we'd originally asked for."

George Riley, a deputy to Renne who supervises litigation involving the police and fire departments, stressed that lawsuits and claims against officers are now being referred to the department's Management Control Division for investigation and possible disciplinary action.

"Every claim that is filed with the police department is now being referred to Management Control for parallel investigation (for possible disciplinary action)," he said. "This is a fairly recent device to automatically investigate a claim."

The new procedure is not without problems. Riley said there is an inherent conflict between the city attorney's duty to ensure that errant officers are punished and her responsibility to protect the city from legal liability.

Once his office begins defending an officer in a misconduct lawsuit, Riley said, it cannot turn evidence of wrongdoing over to police officials for possible disciplinary action.

"What the police officer tells us is protected by the attorney-client privilege," Riley said. "It is not to be used in any forum — including the disciplinary forum."

Old Lawsuits

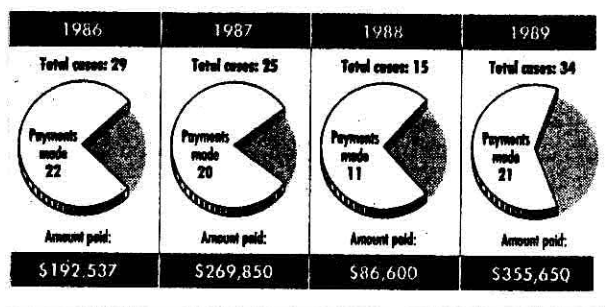
Riley said some lawsuits that might have resulted in disciplinary action have been stalled because the people who filed the suits refuse to cooperate with investigators from the police department. In other cases, he said, the incidents in the suits are so old they are hard to investigate.

If an investigation does find evidence of misconduct in an old suit, disciplining the officer may not be appropriate.

As John Kecker, the vice-president of the Police Commission put it, "What sense does it make to discipline an officer for something they may have done in 1984 or 1985 if they haven't been in trouble since then and their record shows they are basically good officers?"

PAYOUTS IN LAWSUITS ALLEGING

POLICE MISCONDUCT, 1984-1989



CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

Good Chronicle coverage of police abuse (5/29 and 5/30)

How about our own police review board? More next issue.

COURTROOM CARTWHEELS

.....DENNY'S DIEHARDS PRESS CASE....Apparently, seeking coffee in unfashionable clothing is still a criminal offense at Ocean St. Denny's. Last Spring, Linda the Lark Edwards refused to leave, in solidarity with several homeless friends who had been thrown out into the rain when they sought to buy coffee the previous weekend. The management had her arrested, jailed, and charged with trespass, and the D.A.'s office is prosecuting her. Why not take Denny's to court for discrimination under the state Unruh Civil Rights Act? Only top D.A. Art Danner knows for sure! Linda's next pre-trial date: July 6 at 8:30 a.m. when she'll also face more judicial jumpingjacks with a charge of "interfering with an officer" on May 30 at the "Suspend Hennig" demonstration.¹⁵

.....MADDOG MULLIGAN'S MONSTER MASH.....Dean Larson, a local man disabled with a bad back, sat out a long eight hours in Maddog's Mauling Ground Tuesday three weeks ago, waiting patiently with his sister by his side to deal with an unpaid fine. At day's end, when, in some pain, he finally got his case heard, Larson said the proof that he'd paid the fine was lost in the earthquake. Maddog declined to believe him and declared he owed \$200+ worth of Community Service. Larson, having trouble getting rent together and active in earthquake relief, took this hard, but apparently gave only a wince of pain once out of the courtroom in the hallway.

Woe to the wimperer! Mulligan quickly motioned to his bailiff Eric the Terrible and had the unfortunate Dean dragged back into court to sit for another painful quarter of an hour next to the bailiff like a bad dog who'd piddled on the rug. What "contempt of court" penalty would the Master dispense for the crime of expressing human pain, perhaps human disgust, too loudly?

With the day's deluge of camping cases done, Mulligan berated Dean. Pain-ridden and humiliated, the exhausted man was reduced to tears at which point Eric the Terrible attempted to clear the courtroom and close off this sadistic little scene from public view. Unwilling to leave the room were Grinning Ray Grueneich and Bathrobespierre Robert. (cont.)

15 Reports from all-night eateries like Golden West have yielded mixed results; recent reports from Denny's indicate a midsummer upsurge of prejudice against homeless "scarfheads," which activists have vowed to confront in the days ahead. Zanotto's grocery, picketed last April for telling homeless customers to leave, continues to follow Deadheads around and wall off its dumpster and walkway, but has not refused service to homeless activists lately. Nor has Erik's Deli downtown, which threw out Morpheus Mike and Midnight Mike back in April.

Mannoff's on Water St. near River St., on the other hand, confronted Linda the Lark Edwards and Morpheus Mike around 6 pm last week (June 22) and told them "get out." "Why?" asked Linda. "Because of the way you look," responded the employee [referring, perhaps to Linda's purple tie-died dress]. "That's discrimination," observed Linda. "I know," replied the bigot, "get out." Linda is considering a return visit with tape recorder and attorney in hand.

Psychologist begs for better times after trying life as a panhandler

Los Angeles psychologist Robert Butterworth took to the streets to learn more about how passers-by react to the upturned palm of a panhandler. As he tells Los Angeles Times staff writer David Haldane, he was surprised by what he found in his brief life as a bum.

LOS ANGELES — I made one serious error during my first day as a beggar on the streets of Los Angeles.

"Gotta nickel?" I self-consciously asked a well-dressed passer-by.

"Sell your ring?" she scoffed, then marched off. I glanced at my left hand: I had forgotten to remove the \$1,000 diamond ring I'd worn for years. There it was, proclaiming loudly to the world that I was an intruder on alien ground. Feeling foolish, I quickly pulled it off my finger and placed it in a back pocket.

Then, bending my head slightly to assume a look of humility, I forced myself to continue my new-found avocation.

"Gotta nickel?" I'm not really a beggar. I'm a psychologist. But I've always had a professional interest in people who live, by fortune or design, at the edge of society. I became interested in beggars, in particular, because one man I pass on the way to the

post office every morning made me angry. He would just ask for a nickel or a quarter without bothering anybody. I never gave him any money.

I began noticing, however, that rather than ignore him, I was increasingly reacting with hostility. Where did he get off living this easy life and expecting the rest of us to support him with our hard work and lives full of schedules? Just who did this guy think he was?

I decided to do a research project to find out how people in Los Angeles react to beggars. For seven days, I walked the streets of the city posing as a bum and asking for spare change.

I tried panhandling because I wanted to know more about the moment of proffering. How, when confronted by a stranger asking for money, do most people react? Do they give or not? Do they acknowledge the beggar's presence or look away, pretending he or she doesn't exist? Do they become angry, beckling, insulting or threatening? Or do they just mind their own business, refusing to allow the intruder into their insulated worlds?

To make the project more scientific, I divided the city into seven demographic regions. I wanted to compare the reactions and behavior of the various groups that make up the city's population. I also charted results according to race, sex and age.

What I ultimately discovered surprised me: Most people in Los Angeles aren't that unkind to beggars; some, in fact, are nice to them. And while begging in the streets is tedious work and certainly is no way to earn even a poverty wage, people tend to interact with beggars on a human level.

Before I could find that out, of course, I had to transform myself into someone who looked like a beggar, a process that turned out to be much more difficult than I had imagined.

I began by letting my beard grow for several days. I messed up my hair and, using my wife's hair spray, lightened it to look somewhat older than my 43 years.

Makeup proved useful. For days on the street, I used it to darken my stubble for a more pronounced, dirty look. And on work days, when I had to meet with patients (I still had to make a living through all of this), I used it to lighten the stubble so it barely showed.

I lived in dread of being recognized as a bum by one of my clients. Or worse, of running into friends and associates while begging.

After the first-day fiasco over the diamond ring, my days on the sidewalk settled into a fairly predictable routine.

"Gotta nickel?" I'd say with my head slightly bowed and hand out.

Or, "I need some money. . . ." Those who ignored or heckled me, I'd let walk right on by. But when somebody offered money, I'd immediately return it, tell them who I was, and try to interview them on the spot.

The results were astounding: Of the 1,465 people I asked for money, only 33 — about one every 15 minutes, or 4 percent of those approached — actually gave me anything.

But even those who didn't, generally acknowledged my existence in some way. About 70 percent shook their heads and said, "No, I'm sorry," "Not today" or "I don't have any change."

I was making less than minimum wage, but because people were being polite to me, I wasn't feeling rejected.

There were exceptions, of course. One guy, responding to my "Gotta nickel?" snorted "got change for a hundred?" and kept walking. I felt like crawling under a rock. His taunting dismissal made me feel like a snail.

Another pedestrian launched into an angry tirade about panhandlers' laziness, insisting that "85 percent of the people out here need to find jobs." It was difficult to refrain from slenching him through humiliation by explaining just how wrong he was in

my case. It made me angry to realize that someone would make such assumptions without knowing anything about me.

The passers-by who were the most abusive tended to be teen-age boys. On the other end of the spectrum, interestingly, white males, ages 20 to 35, were the most likely to give money.

And somewhere in the middle were women of all races older than 40, who generally ignored my pleas entirely.

I encountered the police only once. "You can't stand here," a sheriff's deputy told me in Hollywood one Saturday night near a heavy-metal rock club. A bolt of fear flashed through me, but he didn't seem to notice. "You've got to always be in motion," he said calmly.

So I kept on moving, always moving. As the days dragged on, the boundaries between my two selves gradually began to blur. Slowly, I took on the physical characteristics of a beggar. I began to walk like a bum, leaning forward with sort of a purposeful aimlessness. I found myself feeling kind of free out on the streets; I figured I was a bum so I could do anything I wanted.

But eventually the elation turned to depression. There were times when I just didn't want to do it anymore and had to force myself out the door in the morning. I found myself counting the days until I'd have enough data to quit.

So what did I learn from the exercise? For one thing, I learned that being a beggar is darned hard work — mentally and physically.

It's psychologically tough work because you have to stand there hour after hour, maintaining an attitude of engaged humility, risking (and sometimes experiencing) rejection at every turn. That is emotionally draining, and spiritually demeaning.

Begging is demanding physically because some of the basic biological functions the rest of us take for granted can be major ordeals for panhandlers. This was brought home to me the first time I needed to use the bathroom while on the "job." Following my usual procedure, I walked into a restaurant and asked to use the facilities. Nothing doing, I was firmly informed. Thereafter, I made sure I went to the bathroom before leaving home or panhandling near a McDonald's. I now understand, however, why the streets of Los Angeles are as soaked with urine as they are.

Homeless, S.F. in Court Over Camping in Cars

At issue: whether there is a right to shelter

By Ann Stroock
Chronicle Staff Writer

A San Francisco courtroom was the scene of a battle yesterday between the homeless and the City of San Francisco over whether citizens have a fundamental right to shelter.

The issue was presented to the State Court of Appeal by lawyers for the homeless who are fighting a San Francisco ordinance that bans sleeping in cars on public streets.

A group called Vehicular Residents Association filed suit in 1988 to block the ordinance from being enforced, but San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Figone dismissed the case, saying there is no fundamental right to shelter.

The homeless are asking the higher court to give them grounds for their case by ruling that shelter is a protected right.

Sarge Holtzman, the attorney for the residents, argued that it would be "incomprehensible outside any courtroom to say shelter is not a necessity of life. The law ought not to be incomprehensible. Moreover, it ought to be fair."

Holtzman said the homeless are too poor to afford traditional housing, and he argued that cars provide a minimum of protection, some privacy and a place to sleep.

Because the right to life is guaranteed by the Constitution, and shelter is necessary to preserve life, then shelter — even if the form of an ordinary car — ought to be protected, Holtzman said.

The city, however, said the homeless are asking for "a constitutional right to homestead city streets."

Deputy City Attorney Randy Riddle said that even if the court deems shelter as a fundamental right, the city still retains the right "to place reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner for exercising this right."

Outside the courtroom, Riddle said the city does have an interest in preserving sanitation and safety in residential neighborhoods, as well as a quiet atmosphere.

"It's not like the mayor is just sitting on his hands," he added. "He is actively working to find shelter for the homeless. This just isn't appropriate shelter."

The dispute began Jan. 8, 1988, Mayor Agnos' first day in office. That night police notified groups of homeless people sleeping in their cars that the city planned to begin enforcing its ordinance prohibiting "eating, sleeping or resting (in a motor vehicle parked in any public place) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 in the morning."

The homeless protested and the mayor publicly ordered the police to stop enforcing the law.

That brought pressure from homeowners, and the mayor reversed his decision, announcing that he no longer supported non-enforcement.

A decision by the Court of Appeal is expected within three months.

Rearranging Priorities

5/29/90

Editor — I have read a series of letters to the editor written by people who do not live in San Francisco, complaining about "the aggressive panhandlers and derelicts" who populate our streets.

The latest, from Robert L. Kilpatrick of Concord (Letters, May 22), is typical. He states that he can no longer shop, dine or attend the theater in San Francisco because of the "raving, profanity and spitting on or at you . . . What a tragedy that this has been allowed to occur to what was once a glorious city."

I have a suggestion for Mr. Kilpatrick and all the others who are now apparently unwilling to come to San Francisco. Take all that money you saved because you were so unfairly denied a restaurant meal and tickets to the theater and give it to a fund for the homeless, or a mental health program, or a drug and alcohol abuse project.

And get your priorities straight. In truth, what a tragedy it is that this has been allowed to occur to what were once dignified members of what was once, and can be again, a glorious and humane society.

COLLEEN M. ROHAN
S F Chron San Francisco

The second and most important thing I learned is that people in Los Angeles, whether or not they are generous, are not unkind to the beggars of their city. If they can give money, they will, and if they can't or won't, they are generally willing to acknowledge a fellow human being. Outright hostility is rare.

S.F. Mer News 6/8/90

16 Nuni Court Judge Robert Atack gained notoriety last summer as the first municipal court judge to send a cook to jail for trying to feed the homeless over the objections of town authorities, and then throwing a little mud of his own from the bench by accusing her of seeking to poison the homeless with kitty litter.

More recently his gouging gavel has helped keep several sleepers in jail--ratifying computer errors or police malice--where demonstrators were seeking to be D.R.ed for sleeping tickets they had already resolved or court appearances they had missed because they had been arrested by police for sleeping and held in jail the day of the hearing.

... still in
the courts...
... still in
the cars...

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@COURTROOM CARTWHEELS Cont.@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

@@@@@.....CASE OF BULLY VS. BAREFOOT BOY HITS COURTS.....The Hobson/Hennig affair goes to pre-trial July 5, 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom C. Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig's May 30th smashing of Morpheus Mike Hobson prompted around eighteen police complaints and the largest demonstration against local police brutality seen in these parts for some time on the very next day. The trial promises to be a long one, with the many, many witnesses supporting Morpheus, but then perhaps the D.A. will have the good taste to drop this disaster before it embarrasses and enrages twelve honest jurors.

@@@@@.....GRINNING RAY GRUENEICH CONFOUNDS THE EXPERTS, due to file appeal for Linda the Lark Edwards in test Sleeping Ban case! Though the over-burdened people's barrister has tried hundreds (if not thousands) of "camping" cases in Santa Cruz courts over the last decade--almost all for no fee, this will be the first Appeal that Grueneich has ever filed on the issue. Linda contends she was exercising constitutionally-protected symbolic speech by lying at the Homeless Table in a sleeping bag during the forbidden hours of the night (see *Street Shit Sheet #67* for the detailed argument).

Referee "Maddog" John Mulligan, the D.A.'s friend, has consistently ruled that sleeping is a privilege not a right in his bailiwick. Those who complain about his decisions find themselves seized by his eager bailiff, held for "contempt of court," and humiliated like small children kept after school.

Linda's appeal will go to three senior Superior Court judges in 9-12 months, where she will probably be told what she is told every night by the court's armed agents: "Come to Santa Cruz; go to sleep: go to jail." A similar case appealed in Santa Barbara produced a written decision that destroyed the "sleep--yes, camp--no" compromise reached after the 1986 homeless demonstrations there.

Ray announced over KZSC-FM on the June 24th Earthbeat show, that he will continue to take any and all Sleeping Ban camping cases to trial for no fee. He added that he has been trying from 15 to 20 a week and privately offered encouragement that another attorney may be joining him in this battle to hammer some sanity into the local court system.

A series of homeless complaints to the police and claims to the city apparently convinced the SCPD to release homeless property stolen earlier that morning. And the courthouse grapevine has it that public defenders, judges, even district attorneys are fed up with the waste of time and money on The Sleep War. Could be that a flood of appeals might add some judicial pressure to the tide that will ultimately crack the Stonewall of the downtown Gang of 7 (City Council).

A place to sleep
To the editor:
Twice in a one-year period, I have been homeless in Santa Cruz. Most recently, I was homeless for a period of two months. During that time, I was privileged to stay in the city-county-run River Street Shelter, which is a model program -- clean, safe, with an excellent staff and a broad range of supportive services available.
Another program in Santa Cruz, the Satellite Program, while less comprehensive in services than the River Street Shelter, fulfills a vital need in the county. It provides warmth, safety, food and bedding in various church buildings for up to 100 or so people. I had the experience of staying in the Satellite for several months a year ago, and I was able to hold a part-time job while I was there only because I had an alternative place to shower and keep work clothing.
But there is a problem with the Satellite Program. For economic reasons, it can not operate year 'round. It closed April 30, not to re-open until October or later. Where will the 50 to 75 people using that program sleep when it shuts down? The weather is warmer. They could sleep out. If they do, however, our infamous camping ban will insure that they are suitably punished with a fine, imprisonment, or both. What is a citizen to do?
It seems to me we need to create some sort of provision for the people who will be vulnerable not just to the normal hazards of homelessness, but also to the city police who will rout and ticket or arrest them if they dare to sleep. Surely we can find some accommodation for them: a legal campground, a year round shelter, an end to the sleeping ban -- there must be something we can do to deserve our reputation as progressive, compassionate and generous people in Santa Cruz.
MARY E. LINCOLN
Santa Cruz 5/3/90

Marinade Mary Makes Print!

COUCRTROOM CAROUSEL cont.

....."SLYSHOES" SANDY HEADS FOR COURT ONCE MORE!--on July 24 at 1:30 p.m., Grinning Ray will be filing a demurrer for her in Mulligan's Courtroom F in response to May 31st charges that she (a) organized, and (b) participated in a demonstration without a permit. Ray regards the law as plainly unconstitutional and has advised July 4th demonstrators to ignore it. Calling free speech "a non-commercial event"--as the ordinance in question does--has raised grins even among more conservative attorneys.

Police chieflet Michael "Doublecross" Dunbaugh also issued such identical tickets to Bathrobespierre Robert, Loudmouth Leith, and Youthlover Yahsehweh after a demonstration against police brutality that day. The four accepted Dunbaugh's offer to negotiate demonstrators' demands that Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig be suspended, investigated, and retrained after his May 30th assault on Morpheus Mike Hobson near the Union Grove Music parking lot fence. On entering the police station, they found themselves charged with crimes under the year-old "non-commercial events" ordinance reportedly masterminded by Dunbaugh.

When Yahsahweh showed up in court to be arraigned on June 21, after having spent nearly twelve hours in jail on May 30th, his case had mysteriously vanished. A computer error? Or just another case of our copshop's local "harass and run" tactics?

Bubbah Brian Koepke remembered speaking before the Gang of 7 (City Council) last summer when the "non-commercial" ordinance was being debated. Several of the much-maligned Gang piously assured him and critic Calamity Jane Imler at that time that it would have "nothing to do with demonstrations and free speech." Look, Jane, look! See Council lie (misstate itself?)!

.....CAMPING TICKET FLOOD CONTINUES TO SWAMP COURTS....

Insiders are aware that Grim but Grinning Ray Grueneich continues to contribute his Tuesday and Friday afternoons to camping trials in the court of "Maddog" John Mulligan (and occasionally elsewhere). At a recent Gang of 7 Get-Together (a City Council meeting), the people's paperpusher noted that in addition to the current roster of 15 or 20 sleep trials a week, he would continue to take on free any additional camping cases and all tickets for violating the "demonstration permit" ordinance.

Meanwhile back in Courtroom C, an unfortunate turned up in an orange jail jumpsuit in mid-June. His crime: four camping warrants from 1987 and 1988 for sleeping in his car at four different spots around the city and failure to pay one of the county's fancy fines. The punishment: two more days in jail at a cost of hundreds of dollars to taxpayers. The most expensive shelter program around. And this guy was not one of those "so-called homeless activists"--just another guy trying to survive without a house. The hand of official insanity touches everyone.

Pentagon's excess could help homeless

"Municipal brainstorming" (Editorial, Feb. 25) indicated that homelessness is likely to get worse without

a change in state or national policy, and reported that the mayors from five Bay Area cities met to talk about ways to make their concerns known in Sacramento and Washington. One of their suggestions was to identify resources that are going unused, which should be pressed into service.

The United States Senate Budget Committee recently reported that the Pentagon has wasted \$30 billion in extra spare parts, uniforms and other equipment it doesn't need. Why not sell some of this equipment, thereby

realizing a windfall which might be allocated to affordable housing? Even half of the \$30 billion would build 100,000 homes costing \$150,000 each, or 200,000 homes costing \$75,000 each, or refurbish thousands of affordable rental units.

Thousands of people in the Bay Area are sleeping under freeways, in abandoned buildings or on the streets; families with young children are living in their cars or in rundown motels. We can no longer tolerate the large numbers of homeless people wandering our streets -- and the deaths of some of those homeless due to exposure.

We should demand that comprehensive housing bills be adopted in Congress as well as the state Legislature in 1990. Precious little housing will be built in the Bay Area unless Washing-

ton and Sacramento listen to our mayors and housing advocates.

The Gonzalez bill (HR 1180 in the House), the Cranston-D'Amato bills (S 565 and S 566 in the Senate) and the Alquist bill (SB 1205, in the state Legislature) all should be supported. So should Prop. 107, the Roberti Housing

and Homeless Bond Act, which will be the first item on the June 5 state ballot. 3/2/90

Gertrude M. Welch Cupertino

San Jose Mer. News

7/7/9 R-P

FEMA TRAILER UPDATE. More than eight months after the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up trailers to house people left homeless by the Oct. 17 earthquake, some of those living in the trailer parks are having a hard time finding permanent housing.

Many are finding the average three bedroom house out of their reach at \$1,100 a month, and some landlords do not want to rent to large families. Trailer residents are required to make 10 inquiries a month about permanent housing.

Meanwhile, several park residents are looking into the possibility of buying the trailers from FEMA to provide permanent housing.

Register-Pojacanian 7/7/9

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@COURTROOM CARTWHEELS cont.@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

@@@@@.....NOT EVERYONE WAS HAPPY WITH BATHROBESPIERRE Robert's decision to plead "no contest" to overkill misdemeanor charges of "disrupting a legal assembly." The bearded activist was hauled out of the Gang of 7's lair last month by Hobohunter Hennig himself at the nod of Mayor Wormhoudt and Top Cop Javeljabber Jack Bassett when Bathrobespierre attempted to finish a speech denouncing recent seizures of homeless bedding and political literature.

Though he could have had a jury trial on the issue, Bathrobespierre apparently made a tactical choice at his arraignment when the case appeared in the court of "Wiff 'o Hope" Watts. Learning that the indicated sentence would be no jail (1 day with credit for the day he'd already spent locked up after his arrest) and no probation, the teddy-bear loving activist took the dive and pled "no contest" to the charge.

"Moxie" Margaret Marr, Jabberwocky Jay's uncompromising public defender newly active in the search for a homeless campground, and radio champion of homeless rights, expressed regret that Norse had copped a plea and questioned whether twelve jurors would have sent the sugar-lipped speechmaker to jail for finishing a 4 1/2 minute speech: "It's a matter of free speech."

@@@@@.....KITCHENQUEST DEFENDANT MARINADE MARY Lincoln pled "no contest" to "trespass" charges for serving food to the homeless in the Food Pavilion parking lot back in March. Her attorney "Battlin'" Bob Taren in his first homeless activist case on record was willing to take the case to a jury, but Mary was swamped with schoolwork, rent demands, failing health, deadheart doctors, and a new job.

So she lucked out and drew the judge most unsympathetic to D.A. dirty tricks and activist-baiting--our favorite--"Whiff o' Hope" Watts. He offered Mary the same sentence that early Kitchenquest defendants got--2 days jail and no probation. Mary signed up for 16 hours of Community Service instead--though we know that she actually did hers back in March, when she fed the homeless and embarrassed the county into opening up a certified kitchen to restart the nightly homeless meal.

@@@@@.....MORE HENNIG HOBOHUNTING...from the no-nonsense SCPD sergeant who brought you "planter patrols" across from the Metro and "cattleherding" to hustle along lingering long-hairs (or skin-heads...or youths...or deadheads...or (fill-in non-commercial group of your choice)... Homeless Tabluhteer "Rodent" reported the cantankerous cop caught him with his jacket on the railing of the bike rack. "Hey! This is a bike rack, not a god-damned coat rack," remarked the sharp-eyed lawman. And with that, he wrote Rodent a ticket for "abusing a public structure." (city ordinance 9.50.020). Only in Santa Cruz.

17 "Rodent", triumphant from retrieving his distinctive black cape (seized in the May 8 police plundering expedition), made us promise to correct his name, wrongly written as 'Roadside Rodent' in Street Shit Sheet #73. Quoth Rodent, "Not 'Roadside Rodent.' Not 'Roadkill Rodent.' Just Rodent." So be it.

HOMELESS NO MORE is Midnight Mike Widdle, whose property still adorns police storage compartments because it was unlucky enough to be at the Homeless Table April 7th. Mike is working now and has an apartment, but still seems to gravitate back to the Homeless Vigil.

To clear up his court record, Midnight pled "no contest" to a bogus "trespass" charge for which he was dragged off to jail last April. His real crime: sitting on the steps of World Savings Bank without a business suit.

He also did not contest another charge arising from a fracas outside Zanotto's grocery, back when it was bragging about its "dress code" policy to exclude homeless and street people. Seems the scrappy PSI man had taken the "business fascism" of his Zanotto's bosses a little too seriously and tried to bully Mike a little too far. Mike resisted and got arrested. Now he's been ordered to do Community Service hours while the boys playing Rent-A-Cop downtown continue to strut around fishyeing every homeless person that comes into Zanotto's. (see p. 27d for a letter from midnight.)



The Infamous "Law" "Public Nuisance" Law

Public Nuisance—Obstructing Free and Comfortable Use of Liberty and Property.

Anything which is injurious to health, or is indecent, or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by an entire community or neighborhood, or by any considerable number of persons, or unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin, or any public park, square, street, or highway, is a public nuisance. Leg.H. 1872, 1874 p. 431.

Homeless Find Shelter At Chicago's Airport

SF Chron New York Times Spring 1990

Chicago With their small canvas tote bags, James Jackson and his family might have been mistaken for travelers headed home for Thanksgiving, three more faces among the tens of thousands passing through O'Hare International Airport here on one of the busiest travel days of the year.

But the Jacksons — James, who is 63, and a son and a daughter, who are 29 and 31 — did not go anywhere for the holidays. Since October, they have lived together inside O'Hare, part of a population of more than 200 homeless people who live in the airport's cavernous terminals, sleeping on banks of rigid plastic seats, bathing in bathrooms, hustling for change and roaming the long, polished concourses, killing time and keeping warm.

Homeless people like the Jacksons are easily lost amid the airport's vast, bustling crowds. Although some, like Jackson, appear to blend in, others are more noticeable, asleep on chairs with coats over their heads or surrounded by piles of plastic bags that contain their few belongings. Their presence, on a snowy Thanksgiving with temperatures in the 20s, provides a poignant contrast to the bright faces of travelers often walking arm-in-arm and relatives who have come to welcome them home for the holidays.

"It's hard to sleep here," said Jackson, whose family has been at the airport since October, when the weather turned cold and they could not find a shelter that would take in all three of them. "But at least it keeps us out of the Chicago wind." Michael Marubio, a staff worker with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, said people choose to live at the airport because "it is clean and safe and warm," adding, "It is also a place where people can maintain some degree of anonymity."

Although homeless people in other cities crowd transportation centers, like Grand Central Terminal and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York, there is no other airport in the nation with as many homeless as there are at O'Hare, said Rita Schwartz. She recently completed a national survey on homelessness and the transportation industry on behalf of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Police at O'Hare will arrest homeless people if they are disorderly, and sometimes they rouse them from sleep if they are lying across seats, but the city's policy so far has not been to evict them.

A REAL Public Nuisance from 1903 Colorado...

Sebastian county." "That a high state of excitement and condition of hot blood now prevails between striking miners and their sympathizers in large numbers, on the one side, and said coal company and its employees, on the other. That said coal company is threatening and is about to import into said county and town of Huntington, over the line of their codefendant's railroad, a large number of armed men of the low and lawless type of humanity, to wit, about 200, to the great danger of the public peace, morals, and good health of said county, and more particularly of said town. That said threatened action on the part of said defendant, if permitted to be executed, would become a great public nuisance, and would destroy the peace, morals, and good health of said county and town, and would lead to riot, bloodshed, and to the dissemination of contagious and infectious diseases."

HOMELESS HIT LIST HITS THE FAN IN MULLIGAN'S COURT
LONG-SUPPRESSED DOCUMENT SHOWS SCPD-D.A. COLLUSION

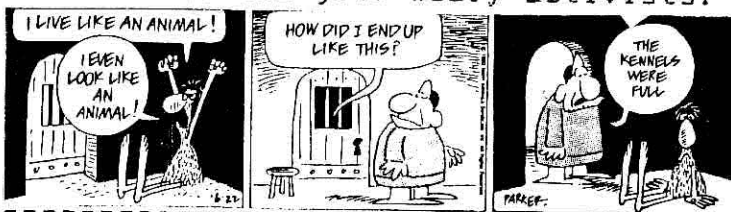
Jabberwocky Jay Green was arrested, handcuffed, and jailed for sleeping outside the post office in mid-March and then again, and then yet again. Since the charges involved were infractions and not misdemeanors--for which a police officer can ticket but not arrest--Jay asked why. "You're on this list," he was told as he was escorted to the squad car, "see?"--and the list was shown to him. When the same thing happened to Paddywagon Pete Pascoe, Calamity Jane Imler and Bathrobespierre Robert Norse approached the district attorney's office for an explanation.

Misdemeanor Supervisor "Pretty Bizarre" admitted the existence of a blacklist of names, consisting of all of those cited for trespass in the Kitchenquest Santa Cruz demonstrations at the Civic Auditorium, the Board of Supervisors chambers, and the Food Pavillion downtown. The Kitchenquest demonstrations led to the resumption of the nightly homeless meal in April--forcing the county to move on its long-stalled promise to provide access to a certified kitchen.

Thus the list was well-known to homeless activists for months. For everyone else, however, the March 13th memo from Supervisor Bazar to the Santa Cruz police had been officially buried by eager underling Paul "Martial Law" Marigonda in hearing after hearing.²⁰

Unsuspecting Officer Kern initially exposed the hotly-disputed blacklist to Referee Mulligan's Courtroom F several weeks ago in one of Jay Green's "open container" trials. When a sharp-eared spectator drew Grinning Ray Grueneich's attention to Kern's brief mention of the list, the bearded barrister leapt up to take over the defense of Green's case and got Kern to admit again the existence of the list. (Kern had to reveal the list in order to justify her arrest of Green, followed by a 1:30 a.m. phone call to Muni Court Judge McAdams, asking that the dangerous activist be held on bail and kept behind bars.)

Several days later in a second case, Grueneich wrestled the actual list itself from police hands when Officer McMahan flashed the incriminating document to justify another arrest of Green on an otherwise innocuous sleeping infraction. The pony-tailed attorney has declared an interest in suing the SCPD and the D.A.'s office to discourage such extra-legal hanky panky and win a little compensation for the jail-weary activists.



- 18 The exceptions are (1) if the person refuses to identify herself, (2) if the person refuses to sign the citation, (3) if the person has outstanding warrants on other cases, (4) if the person is on a probation that specifically bars the infraction conduct for which s/he is cited.

19 "Pretty Bizarre" both describes and satirizes Misdemeanor Supervisor Patty Bazar. (cont.)

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: March 13, 1990
TO: SCPD
FROM: Patty Bazar, DAO
SUBJECT:

DEFENDANT'S EXHIBIT
MAY 15 1 05 PM '90

In light of the series of recent arrests of our local "homeless activists" please be advised that the following people are on O.R. status on the following cases.

SCPD case 90-052-84, incident date February 21, 1990, court status pending filing.

- Jane Imler - court date 3/15/90
- Jay Green - court date 3/22/90
- Robert Norse - no arraignment date
- Leith Austin - no arraignment date

SCSO case 90-2186, incident March 6, 1990, pending filing.

- Leith Austin - court date 3/28/90
- Calvin Pascoe - court date 3/28/90
- Judith Beinert - court date 3/28/90
- Linda Edwards - court date 3/28/90
- Jane Imler - court date 3/28/90
- Robert Norse - court date 3/28/90

I hereby certify the foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

DATED JUN 13 1990
PAUL HUBBARD, CLERK

SCPD case 90-066-154, incident 3/7/90, pending filing.

- Calvin Pascoe - court date 3/28/90
- Leith Austin - court date 3/28/90
- Judith Beinert - court date 4/11/90
- Mary Lincoln - court date 4/5/90

Should another incident take place and these people arrested for conduct of a similar nature please do not ticket and release. If appropriate contact Presiding Judge McAdams if possible or another judge and explain the situation, ask them to revoke O.R. on the previous cases and set bail on all including the new incident. Bail should be the standard municipal bail of either \$500 or \$1000 per case as is on the schedule. There is no need to request a higher than average bail at this point. Book the individuals at the jail and fill out the bail affidavit. The reason you should list for why bail is being set is, "Repeat criminal violations while on O.R. release". Thus invoking a little known rule that you are suppose to obey all laws while on O.R.

Call me if you have any questions.

PHOTO COPY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

bg

Homeless protest to be protested

BY LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER
REGISTER-TARAPONTIAN 6-21-90
ference between the homeless and the bums."
Busenhart said she questions how many of the homeless are making efforts to find a permanent residence. For the homeless who need help or a place to stay, Busenhart said, "there are plenty of programs."

The city's camping ban, long a source of irritation to the homeless, shouldn't be relaxed, Busenhart said. "Do we want our streets and sidewalks to become a campground?" she asked.
Busenhart said she decided to organize her counter-protest after learning that homeless people would be coming from other parts of the state for a "homeless congress" on Wednesday.

Norse said the event will include a gathering at San Lorenzo Park and a tour of "homeless hot spots," such as the corner next to the Post Office where homeless people are periodically arrested.
The tour will lead to City Hall, the same spot where the counter-demonstrators will gather. Norse said the homeless will ask for an easing of the camping ban and return of some of the bedding he said police seized from homeless people earlier this year. Norse said the demonstration will be addressed to anybody who will listen at City Hall, although city officials will be off for the holiday.

What's needed, Norse said, is "Not a Hilton hotel, but some area of the city where camping can be legal. What we don't need is \$200 fines" for violating the camping ban.
The homeless congress, an all day event, is scheduled to start at 10 a.m., with the march to City Hall around 10:30 or 11 a.m. The counter-demonstration is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to noon.

citizenship would be required upon entry. Those leaving would have to provide proof of purchase (or recite consumerist allegiance driver). A genuine "credentialed street musician" could play pop-elevator music at strategic consumer locations. We could have guard towers installed at each end of the treeless, benchless Mall. The "security" guards could scan the antiseptic streets with searchlights at night. Knowing this and thinking that "the homeless problem" had been properly dealt with, Mr. Grumwald and other "normal," like-minded citizens would sleep well, or would they ... ?

Good Times 5/27/90 Concerned About The Homeless

I was shocked, angered and saddened by the manner in which homeless people were discussed in the article on the plans for rebuilding downtown Santa Cruz.

In the third section of the article, entitled "Facing Facts" I found myself facing the myopic vision and opinions of one Bryan Grumwald, panel member of "the prestigious, Urban Land Institute."

Mr. Grumwald begins by saying "The downtown needs to be comfortable for everybody, while making it uncomfortable for people to carry on anti-social behavior." What Mr. Grumwald is apparently voicing is his feelings of insecurity and/or embarrassment in regards to a few unconventional (and probably direct) interactions with nonconformist individuals in public ... To resolve his own ignorance he proposes cultural blindness, en masse. Eradicating this unsightly problem (reminder) and perpetuating the "not in my neighborhood" logic of self interest, he proposes pushing homeless people further outside the mainstream (maybe into suburban areas where they can really feel alienated, like so many others who have to live there).

Who is really anti-social? Those very visible people who can't afford a roof over their heads or even their own private bathroom, living in constant community with others, or those people who stay mostly in their cars, live in houses with security fences and wear earphone radios whenever they're out getting in shape?

The article goes on to quote the Urban Land Institute's report, which "... warns that landscaping on the Mall should not include shrubbery or benches, as these additions invite after hours use deemed inconsistent with the primary function of the Mall itself." Benches also allow people to rest, encourage seniors, young people and children to "loiter" in such a pleasant environment (poor commodities in the consumer marketplace).

How can we better design the Mall? Here's the true crux of ... ULI's phobia. As he [Mr. Grumwald] puts it: "Make it more traditional. Create defensible space that's easier to survey. The planters are handsome, but at night they offer poor visibility."

Maybe eventually, if his vision receives enthusiastic support, anybody with improper attire, yearly incomes of less than \$10,000, would be banned from entering the Mall. Proper documents and proof of

Grant Wilson
Santa Cruz
G.T. 5-24-90

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Sunday, June 24, 1990

Santa Cruz, Calif.

Copyright 1990
Santa Cruz Sentinel Publishers Co.

\$1.00

Justice on the street

A long, fruitless campaign

'Sleeping ban' enforcement latest tool to discourage street people

By GREG BEEBE
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — According to street lore, in the '60s a merchant reportedly suggested retaining the Hell's Angels motorcycle club to help drive away the "street people" — bums, winos, hobos, hippies, transients — who had begun to congregate in downtown Santa Cruz.

The idea was perhaps the first in a largely fruitless, three-decade-long effort to rid the downtown of "undesirables." The rigorous enforcement of a camping ban in the city is just the latest twist in the effort.

In the early '80s, some Santa Cruz Police officers took matters into their own hands, leading to the much-publicized "troll-busting" trials of 1981 and '82.

At the same time, street people began to gather at San Lorenzo Park. Amid charges of widespread drug dealing and lawlessness, they were eventually rousted from the park through increased police presence and changes in park rules, only to resurface at Scope, or "Scribner" Park near the top of the Pacific Garden Mall.

When Scope Park was "cleaned up," the street people took their knapsacks, bedrolls, bongos and backpacks to the Mall itself, where they remained until the Oct. 17 earthquake changed the face of downtown Santa Cruz.

Lately, the Post Office steps at Front and Water streets, and Metro Center area at the south end of the mall have become gathering places. This week, as a contingent of homeless from throughout the state prepare for a July Fourth demonstration at City Hall, the issue appears every bit as unsettled as it did in the '60s.

"We need to encourage the City Council and Vision Santa Cruz to recognize that these people are people, and that they have to be kind of dealt with as participants in what's going on and not just as a problem," said Councilman Don Lane.

"That's what we've been doing all along — seeing them as something other than us," Lane said. "I'm hoping that we can recognize — in the depths of our frustration — that we just have to broaden our approach."

Since January 1986, the Santa Cruz Police Department has issued more than 5,300 citations for illegal camping, or "illegal sleeping," as advocates for homeless rights term it.

The camping ordinance has been on the books since the mid '70s. It says, in part, "No person shall camp anywhere in the City of Santa Cruz whether on public or pri-

vate property, except as hereinafter expressly permitted. To 'camp' means to do any of the following:

"Sleeping — 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. To sleep at any time ... in any of the following places:

"Outdoors with or without bedding ...

"In, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy ...

"In, on or under any parked vehicle ..."

The ban, said activist Robert Norse, "is not human, it's not cost-effective, it's crazy, it's not sensible, it's not constitutional. People have to sleep — that's the bottom line."

"That's what the July Fourth demonstration is all about," Norse said. "It's not about taking over the downtown, or pissing in the river — it's about saving the city money by stopping these frivolous tickets and arrests and finding another solution, and upholding basic constitutional rights while we're at it."

A group of counter-demonstrators who say they're "tired of paying the bills for a bunch of free-loaders" will join the homeless protesters July Fourth at City Hall.

Andrew Morin, director of the non-profit Interfaith Satellite Shelter, has daily contact with the area's homeless. His program was recently scaled down for the summer due to lack of funding; most former clients of the shelter returned to sleeping in the streets, bushes and countryside, he said.

"In some ways I think the city should be more clear about what is allowed," Morin said, "so everybody doesn't come down on the police when they do their job. There's animosity between police and some of the street people and homeless in Santa Cruz. ... I'm afraid we're criminalizing a poor group of our society," Morin said.

"I feel for the merchants, though, because there are some people who really cause problems out there, and the economics of Santa Cruz have been affected."

Sam Brekke, a former outreach worker who counseled mentally-ill homeless, believes "a few bad apples have spoiled the barrel" downtown.

"When one fellow, who was very docile, completely docile, suddenly flipped out and took after somebody with a machete... they're still talking about that on the mall. Things like that stick in people's memories," Brekke said.

"We've got some real problems in our town that we're not willing to face, and it's too bad. It would be nice if we were a nice little quiet seaside community, but it just ain't gonna happen. You're gonna get

homeless people," Brekke said.

"To be perfectly honest and fair, there are some homeless who are nuisances, and outright menaces. There is a criminal element. ... Nobody wants a bunch of scuffs harding on their shoes — that is objectionable," Brekke said. "But at the same time, there are laws against that already. To just be busting somebody for sleeping..."

Mike Dunbaugh, Deputy Chief of the Santa Cruz Police Department, said, "As I see it, there's three options for the city to study. One is privatization (of the downtown area). It is the most complete method of controlling what occurs on property. The second is time, place and manner controls, done through a local ordinance allowing the city to place restrictions on the time, place and manner that public property is used.

"That's not the best scenario, but it's another one that needs to be

studied," Dunbaugh said. "The third is to leave things just as they are."

Dunbaugh was with the police department during its difficult period in the early '80s. So-called troll-busting, he said, "won't be allowed to reoccur. I won't live through it and I'm sure my peers who were here then won't, either."

Attorney Margaret Marr, who defends indigent criminal defendants, strongly advocates some sort of designated camping area for the homeless.

"If we could find somewhere away from the downtown area where homeless people could get the social services they need ... that would allow them to camp, allow a home for them. That would be the most important step forward."

"They need someplace where they can sleep at night without committing a crime."

"I think that Santa Cruz is a place of which street people have always been a part and we need to welcome them into our communi-

ty. Not until we can bring them into our community and accept them is this confrontation going to end," Marr said.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

The efforts of a neighbor and firefighters were not enough to save this Branciforte live cabin from burning to the ground Saturday.

Fire crews were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby woods. See story, Page A2

Homeless advocates targeted

DA's memo called unconstitutional

By GREG BEEBE
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — The war of wills between homeless activists and law enforcement authorities has escalated from the streets to the courtroom, where attorneys for the activists claim their clients' civil rights are being violated.

An inter-office memo written by a member of the District Attorney's Office to Santa Cruz Police officers is the latest salvo in the long-running feud between homeless activists, "street people" and police and county prosecutors.

City officials say the memo — dubbed a "hit list" by the activists and their lawyers — illustrates growing frustrations on the part of both activists and police in dealing with persistent social and law-enforcement problems in the city's downtown area and outskirts. ■ A long, fruitless campaign — Page A4
■ Advocate's tactics questioned — Page A5

The correspondence, written March 13 by Assistant District Attorney Patty Bazar, lists the names of eight homeless activists who are to be denied release from jail on their own recognizance, or "O.R." release, due to "repeat criminal violations while on O.R." The activists had previously been cited or arrested in connection with homeless-rights protests and city infractions.

District Attorney Art Danner, when shown the memo, said, "I really don't know the circumstances. I don't know whether the police made a request about what they could do."

Bazar, the memo's author, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

"All this memo does is give a status report on people who were on O.R. release. I don't know if the police have access to that information otherwise," Danner said.

"If it's a situation where someone is going to be a chronic offender, and they decide 'I don't care,' the court's response to that may be to revoke their status of release," said Danner.

Margaret Marr, attorney for some of the activists named in the letter, contends the list shows an "intent to deprive these people of their constitutional rights. These people's First Amendment rights are being violated at every turn."

"This is not a list of drunken drivers. It's not a list
Please see HOMELESS — A22

of rapists. It's a list of homeless-rights advocates.

"There are some meritorious civil-rights suits here," said Marr.

Santa Cruz Police Department Deputy Chief Mike Dunbaugh said, "My understanding was the intention of that memo was an attempt to put a damper on the ability of certain people to make a mockery of the criminal justice system, which included the courts, and that there was no intent, at least on behalf of the Police Department, to do anything other than that."

"We're kind of stuck in the middle here," Dunbaugh said.

"From a standpoint of civil disobedience, if you're going to practice civil disobedience you should also be prepared to accept the consequences," Danner said.

At the heart of the struggle:

- Enforcement of the city's controversial camping ban. The ban, activists say, is actually a "sleeping ban" directed at the homeless.

- The police practice of confiscating the belongings of street people as evidence, and the alleged practice by the Attorney's Office of holding such evidence without filing charges.

- A county court system clogged with trials demanded by homeless people and activists cited for camping illegally, trespassing, blocking sidewalks and being a public nuisance.

- A lack of trust and meaningful dialogue between city officials and the homeless activists.

The eight activists named in the memo were all cited or arrested during "Kitchen Quest," a series of three demonstrations after the Oct. 17 earthquake designed to draw attention to what activists perceived as a lack of adequate food programs for the homeless.

Marr recently attempted to introduce the memo as evidence in the public-nuisance trial of her client, Jay Green, one of four men and our women on the list. Marr contends that two activists were held — after committing ticketable infractions — directly as a result of their inclusion on the list, which was circulated to Santa Cruz Police officers.

Municipal Court Judge Tom Kelly, however, sided with Assistant District Attorney Paul Marigonda in refusing to admit the memo as evidence "because it had no bearing on any legal issues, no relevance to the issues. ...

"These kinds of internal memos are not discoverable. It is totally neutral and has no bearing on the issues. If it was a 'smoking pistol,'" Kelly said, "then it would have been discovered."

Still, Kelly sealed the memo for possible Appellate Court review, and acknowledged that the growing number of trials involving street people and activists "involve great investments of time and energy. ... These (attorneys and court staff) are not working for nothing."

Councilman Don Lane said the memo "shows the level of conflict that the community has, and that's just one way it's being played out.

"It reinforces my own belief," Lane said, "that there has to be a greater attempt of reconciliation, that to just step up the battle is not getting us anywhere."

"I think there's a lot of frustration that goes along with being a police officer," Deputy Chief Dunbaugh said. "And it's very frustrating having to spend your time dealing with petty nuisance violations when there are people that truly need your help and you would like to help."

Robert Norse, the advocate for homeless rights both praised and criticized for his sometimes-confrontational tactics, said the memo "indicates a special emphasis on homeless activists and a policy of the District Attorney's Office to zero in on them in what seems to be an illegal and inappropriate manner." Norse was also on the list.

Jane Imler, long active in efforts to feed the homeless and a one-time candidate for County Sheriff, said "initially I was amused when I heard I was on the list. I said, 'A hit list on us?' But as I reflected more on it, it obviously shows some fear, I think, on some parts of the community."

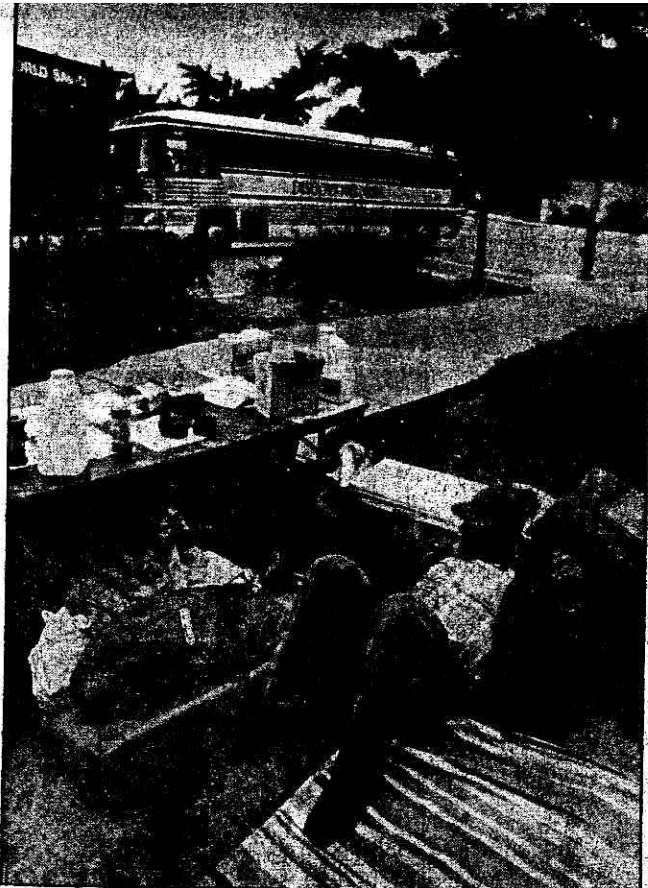
"As far as the Santa Cruz Police Department is concerned," Imler said. "I think they learned fairly quickly that we were a non-violent group. But obviously there is somebody in the city that is very threatened by the whole homeless movement."

"I've heard it's business, I've heard it's the community (groups), the politicians," she said. "I think it would be business that's putting on the pressure in light of the fact of the earthquake. They want to get big money from outside sources into the town, and the thing that might be keeping that from happening is the street scene," Imler said.

Since Dec. 23 of last year, Santa Cruz police have raided the "homeless table" in front of the Post Office at Front and Water streets 10 times. While writing tickets for various infractions including blocking the sidewalk, illegal camping (the table is manned 24 hours a day), and maintaining a public nuisance, the police have also seized as evidence tables, chairs, literature, sleeping bags, backpacks and personal items belonging to the homeless.

The activists claim the table serves as a meeting place for the homeless, an information clearing house and a storage area for possessions. Backpacks and sleeping bags, for example, are not allowed in the county courthouse.

"What's really going on here," wrote Marr in a court document dated June 13, "is wholesale seizures designed to deprive homeless people of their last, and direly needed, possessions in order to discourage them from continuing in their political speech. The Santa Cruz Police Department has ... come and seized absolutely everything from the homelessness advocacy area. On only three of these occasions has anyone been charged for any offense in connection with the seizure. Many people



A relaxed street person minds the homeless table. Dan Coyra/Sentinel

lost everything they owned," Marr wrote. "If the criminal intent is there, we will prosecute," Marigonda said. "It's simple. If property is seized and we don't file on it, then it is released."

After a closed-door meeting June 15 between Judge Kelly, Marr, Marigonda and police Sgt. Bob Hennig, a settlement was reached to return some confiscated property.

"It's nice to see each side show some good faith," Kelly said later, "and maybe work together instead of being at loggerheads."

"I am glad the property that these people have been deprived of for so long was given back to them. This was their clean clothes, toothbrushes, shampoo, things they need," said Marr.

"Imagine the police coming to your home and taking everything you own. I'm just sorry it took so long to get it back. We're making strides, attempting to work with the police and the authorities so we can reach some agreement so that these constant confrontations need not occur." Confrontations continue, however, at the courthouse, where trials involving the homeless are "jamming the calendar, putting a burden on the calendar," said Municipal Court Referee John Mulligan, who estimates he's already presided over 50 such trials.

"Court trials are not for political dialogue," said Judge Kelly. "The

overriding political issues are not addressed in the narrow scope of a trial. I have been encouraging dialogue."

Councilman Lane, too, has been encouraging dialogue, even though "over the last couple of years ... been very ineffective."

"I think there have been a couple of people, activists, whose style of trying to effect change has been so wrongheaded that it has just caused people to not want to be responsive. It's been so confrontational, so antagonistic," Lane said.

"On the other hand it has caused some of the people on the council to use that as an excuse not to take on the issue in a larger sense," Lane said.

"Everywhere else it seems like the homeless issue is about the availability of resources," said Councilman John Laird. "In Santa Cruz, it seems more about civil rights than the availability of resources, not whether people have a place to sleep inside, but whether it's their civil right to sleep outside."

"I don't think there's much dialogue between the council and the activists and I don't think either side thinks it can trust the other," Laird said.

"I think the council should be trying to meet the needs of people in need, but that dealing directly with the activists means that you will reward disruption, and make that your political currency."

7/13/90 City on 9
The Homeless Are Coming!

On July 4th, homeless from all over the state will flock to Santa Cruz solidarity against the infamous camping ban. Under city code 6.31 the city-wide "camping" ban bars sleeping outdoors, in vehicles, or in any structure "not intended for human habitation" between 11p and 8:30am.

California's homeless are planning a week long protest/convention in Santa Cruz, complete with seminars on the welfare system and how to deal with discrimination by restaurant employees. They even plan to request an appearance from Jesse Jackson in support of their cause.

This plan came out of a conference in Sacramento attended by approximately 800 California homeless. (These, approximately 750 voted to locate their next meeting in Santa Cruz.

Why here? According to homeless activist, Robert Norse, Santa Cruz was chosen because its "progressive city council babbles about Nicaragua ... and ends up oppressing its own homeless." He also says local discrimination against the homeless has been on the rise in recent months.

To compound the tension between local authorities and the homeless, 6 to 85 more Santa Cruz homeless will be without beds as of April 30. The Satellite Shelter, which provides space for homeless to sleep in local churches, will be closing down for the summer. Once the Shelter closes there won't be as many places for homeless to spend their nights legally.

City Councilmember Don Lane sympathizes with the homeless on the camping ban issue and added, "The city needs to make clear where we want the homeless to sleep, if not in their campers." However, Lane doubts whether the upcoming protest/convention on July 4th will have any effect on the camping ban. He reasoned that the ban has been a high profile issue for several months, without impressing enough council members to obtain the 4 out of 7 majority needed within the council to change the ordinance.

**Dirty dealings at World Savings ...
Self-Explanatory ...**

Ms. Dorothy Thompson, General Manager
World Savings Bank
Mission and Pacific Sts.
Santa Cruz, CA

c/o Homeless United for
Friendship & Freedom (HUFF)
614 Hanover St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
April 11, 1990

Dear Ms. Thompson,
On Friday afternoon, April 6, we were sitting off to the side on the steps of your bank quietly talking and relaxing. Shortly after 2:30, two police officers arrived and told us we were "trespassing." We immediately got up to leave, but were instead ordered to stay, harassed, and finally charged--with a crime punishable by a maximum of 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine. One of us was actually arrested and taken to jail at the time.

We understand that you are not responsible for the misconduct of the police department, but feel you could have handled the situation differently. Because of the tension that exists between the homeless and the police in Santa Cruz, contacting the police to show force in a situation often aggravates things. Police-- intent on removing homeless from the downtown--often use the opportunity to engage in harassment, which they did on April 6. The two of us work across the street at the Homeless Table. We are trying to amend city ordinances which penalize the homeless just for being homeless (such as the 11 PM to 6:30 AM city sleeping ban). Our vigil has gone on for over 145 days now, as you probably know.

We would prefer to be living inconspicuously somewhere on the edge of town (who likes to live in a goldfish bowl?), but the city has made all of that illegal. We are hoping that councilor Don Lane's proposal for a "sanctuary for sleepers" perhaps up in the Pogonip or out at Harvey West Park will be considered by the Council. So far the Council has refused to even investigate that proposal when Lane brought it up in January of 1989. The Mayor has refused to meet and discuss the issue with us. So we do what we can, taking the issue to the public with petitions, flyers, public speeches, and a highly-visible downtown table.

We realize that as a private business, you have limited influence in this situation. However, we want you to know:
(1) We had no contact with any of your customers on April 6, prior to Mr. Weddle's arrest. At that point, because we were angry with what had happened, we did urge customers not to patronize your bank.
(2) We did not block the entrance to your bank where we were sitting. A third person did sprawl out there for a time, but the two of us were very careful to respect your business rights and the free access of your customers.

Berkeley Lettering
Editor -- I am appalled by the Berkeley City Council's proposed ordinance to outlaw loitering in certain areas by those suspected of dealing drugs. The key word here is "suspected." Unless a person actually commits a crime, he has every right to stop in an area open to the public.
Proponents of the ordinance state that loitering laws give the police a tool for dealing with crime in the community. This may be true, but when such a tool may be used to discriminate against those who are not guilty of any wrongdoing, then the tool is bad for the community.
Loitering laws are unconstitutional by nature. The ostensible reason for a police officer to arrest a loiterer is that the person intends to break a law.
The loitering law insures that the person in question actually is breaking a law (the loitering law). Thus, in effect, the loitering law was made to be broken.
MICHAEL MECHANIC
SF Chron 5/26/91

No one listens to the homeless

Prohibition and repression have never worked; their lack of success is built into their very concept. Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt asked for something radical. As citizens who have been working with the homeless through the Interfaith Church Satellite Program, may we offer the idea of listening to their needs instead of rejecting their suggestions off hand? That would certainly be radical. Good Lord, it might even work.
The homeless ask for an end to the camping ban. They ask for recognition of their humanity. They ask for a place where they can take showers, a place where counseling and health care could happen, a place where they could be safe from the incredible police harassment that faces them every day and every night.

We were very impressed in Anchorage, where in response to a sit-in in the middle of the downtown area, the camping ban there was not only abrogated, but two adjacent warehouses were allocated for the homeless. One is used as a sleeping facility. The other opens in the morning with a free cafeteria, counseling facilities, a library, a crafts area and employment line-up for those who are mentally able to cope with working.

Our poor beleaguered town has been polarized long enough. The merchants are rightfully fearful of economic disaster if something is not done; the homeless are rightfully angry that nobody listens to what their true needs are. Both the so-called "activists" and the

police are creating potential disaster for all of us in the middle.

Santa Cruz already is known for being a small police state, cruel to its homeless. It's amazing that a place our size could have such a national and, alas, even an international reputation. The Chamber of Commerce might be horrified if it heard the remarks about us that we hear on our travels.

Since there is so much distrust at this point, may we recommend using the services of the Conflict Resolution office in town?

Patrick Long and Elizabeth Gips
Santa Cruz S.C. Sent. 5/14/90

Moral Obligation?

Editor -- Mr. Allan Chase (Letters, June 6) evidently is disturbed about Mayor Agnos allegedly ordering the Police Department not to enforce laws prohibiting overnight sleeping in San Francisco parks (in particular the homeless across from City Hall). Chase questions "who gave Agnos permission to ignore our laws or selectively enforce them at his

own whim...?"
The problem with Chase is that he is pondering the wrong question. He should really be asking what Agnos' moral obligation is to the alienated, outcast and ignored members of our society? It is not only the mayor's moral right but his responsibility and duty to override unjust and oppressive laws in an effort to serve the least among us.

LOU A. BORDISSO
Daly City
SF Chron 6/90

cc: Councilperson Don Lane
Chief of Police Jack Bassett
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom
World Savings District Manager, Ms. Debby Sparr
Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt
Watsonville Register-Palatonian

Mike Weddle
Mike Hobson

Thank you,

Please do not be afraid to speak to us directly. We have no grievance against you as a person nor against anyone else in World Savings. We do tell you we made a bad decision regarding the police call, since matters could have been easily communicated and resolved directly.
We know you had no way of knowing this. Even now, you may feel we are just making excuses or telling stories. Please, speak to the people on the streets. Find out what is going on by direct talks. You are always welcome to talk at the Homeless Table to discuss the latest news, and to let us know about any problems that come up.

We know this situation has upset you. You should also know it has upset and will continue to upset us. Not just the many hours in court that your action will put us through. Not just the jailtime that we may have to go through. But there is the ongoing pain of knowing that we face your unwillingness to deal with us as human beings. We are not anonymous menacing shapes outside your window; we are real people. Your action has had real consequences, and harsh ones, on vulnerable people. We urge you to consider that in the future.

*****COBWEBS ON THE CONCRETE*****

~~~~~DID ANYBODY EVER NOTICE that 5 of the last 6 SCPD attacks on the Homeless Table(s) have come within a day or two of the twice-a-month Gang of 7[City Council] get-togethers? Is it politics, lunar cycles, or just noxious effusions in the air from City Council meetings that sparks this bizarre police behavior? Then again, it could be coincidence...

~~~~~MORE HUMDRUM HARASSMENT FROM THE HANDS of our favorite Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig up across from the Metro Center a few months back. Rubbernecker Robert Lee observed the "cattleherding" constable<sup>21</sup> with his trusty sidekick, Officer "Terrible" Dave Townsend in town attacking the nicotine addiction problem head-on. Lee spotted Townsend tearing a cigarette from a youth's hand and ticketing the miscreant upon learning he was a minor "in possession of tobacco." Hennig apparently did the same to the youth's criminal companion.

A moment later, Lee approached one of the youths with the question, "Did he really ask you if you were a boy or a girl?"--incredulously repeating what the cops had asked. When Lee laughed and shook his head in disbelief on hearing that the cops had, he was himself approached by the two lawmen. "You could be blocking the sidewalk," said Hennig.²² "No, I'm just filing a complaint," replied Lee, who did just that later, and a month later received an undated form reply that his inquiry was "being investigated."

8 arrested during melee on SC Mall
Eight people were arrested yesterday afternoon on Santa Cruz's Pacific Garden Mall during a march and demonstration to protest an arrest Wednesday of a Grateful Dead fan.
The demonstration involved, according to various reports, between 30 and 50 demonstrators.
Five of the arrests were of demonstrators involved in the protest. Another three were arrested by undercover narcotics officers, for allegedly selling illegal drugs.
The demonstration began on the Pacific Garden Mall and finally ended at the Santa Cruz City Hall, a couple of blocks away, where protesters demanded to meet with Police Chief Jack Bassett to discuss complaints about a police sergeant who arrested a Grateful Dead fan on Wednesday. Bassett refused to meet with them.

The same lies about "drug dealers" as the Sentinel. See p. 30.

20 In the "Public Nuisance" cases of Jay Green and Linda Edwards--see p. 37. The hit list itself is reprinted on p. . The list is an open invitation to police abuse--for instance, Bazar never specifies what particular "related offenses" justify jailing the named activists. The SCPD was given, and took, carte blanche to decide what activities it didn't like and would issue its own jail orders for.

21 Bazar continues to have the power to direct "Martial Law" Marigonda to stop playing games with homeless survival gear and political rights. Bizarre indeed, she prefers tossing taxpayer bucks into this cruel stupidity.

22 Did Hennig get this tactic from Officer "Terrible" Dave Townsend or vice versa? Seems that Dave followed the same script word for word at the Homeless Table July 9th when Rodent asked Dave not to paw through homeless files without a permit. Dave then wrote the intrepid activist an Obstructing the Sidewalk ticket. The offense is a misdemeanor, punishable by 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine at worst. Could we be seeing a pattern here?

*****COBWEBS ON THE CONCRETE cont.*****

~~~~~QUICK AND DIRTY.....Moonrise Mike C. reports he got a littering ticket. For dumping trash on the sidewalk? Flinging beer bottles out of a speeding car? Or perhaps a favorite SCPD target--dropping one cigarette butt? Ah, no, Mike was spotted putting a political flyer on a police car. Come on, guys--at least read it before you start playing sidewalk censor.

~~~~~BACK IN TOWN AND BACK IN TROUBLE? Big-hearted Bob faces trespass charges for laying down his bag out in the boonies--but not far enough out. Still pending: a 1989 ticket for sleeping in a van that was apparently lurching from side-to-side as sighs leaked from the windows? If our "boots-and-badges" call that "sleeping," we suggest they go back to slumberschool to relearn the basics. Also newly returned, his co-partner in crime Sasquatch Sue Sosnow, who has left her job as a union activist to pick up where she left off during the spring of last year--challenging peeping-tom police patrols and neanderthal laws here in Santa Cruz.

S.F. Chronicle
SFCA 6-8-90
Lawsuit Filed
Against Owners
Of Slum Hotels

By Anne Struick
Chronicle Staff Writer
Separate lawsuits were filed in San Francisco against two Sixth Street residential hotels yesterday contending that owners are breaking city laws and zoning regulations by renting rooms to prostitutes and drug dealers.

Instead, the rooms should go to the homeless, the elderly poor and the disabled, the suit said.

The suits were filed in San Francisco Superior Court by the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, a low-income housing advocacy group, and by Joseph Trevino, a resident of another hotel not named in the suits.

"Women are raped, people are beaten and robbed here, and we want to stop that," said Trevino. "If they rested like they are supposed to, this place wouldn't be so full of the kind of people we don't want."

The suits accuse owners of the 29-room Hart Hotel, at 83 Sixth Street, and the 14-room Whiteaker Hotel, at 41 Sixth Street, of renting rooms for as little as an hour to prostitutes and drug dealers.

"This is a precedent-setting legal strategy," said Randy Shaw, executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic. "We're using civil laws, the South of Market Zoning Ordinance and the city's residential hotel ordinance, to clean up Sixth Street."

Both laws require the hotels to rent rooms exclusively to people who occupy them for 32 or more consecutive days. They were designed to preserve low-income housing in San Francisco.

Shaw said the profit from daily rental is about twice the monthly rate.

One resident of the Hart Hotel said she pays \$20 per day, equal to about \$600 per month. Trevino says his monthly rent is \$260 at the nearby Sunnyside Hotel.

WHATEVER Mitch Snyder's reasons were for killing himself, his death -- that y and at this time -- is grotesquely symbolic of the infuriating, heart-breaking phenomenon of homelessness in this country. The most visible representative a faceless segment of society, Snyder quit fighting this week. He died at a time when national sentiment toward the homeless is a diverse and complex group of people identified by the same deceptively simple term -- hovers between neglect and malice. Snyder, found hanged in the Washington, D.C., homeless shelter operated, quit life the same week that the mayor of San Francisco finally freed police to do what thousands of San Franciscans -- self included -- have been waiting about for months: Clear the disgusting encampment of tent cities in Civic Center Plaza. That move came a few days after 1,000 tax-paying citizens of Santa Cruz, many wearing red shirts with "Get a Job" stenciled on them, answered a homeless activists' demonstration with a big rally of their own.

Salter is an Examiner columnist.

STEPHANIE SALTER

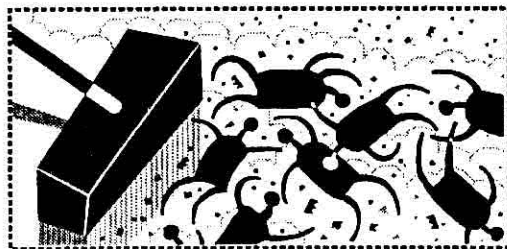
Facing up to homelessness

SF EXAMINER
7-8-90

During that counter-demonstration, one of the homeless campers, a woman named Kathleen Towne, shouted to the crowd that she hoped they did not think themselves Christian. "Jesus didn't have a soft bed to lay his head on," she told them and was answered by a voice from the crowd telling her, "Go to hell!"

GO TO HELL: a message that America increasingly is sending, one way or another, to the millions known as "the homeless." Only days before Snyder's death, in fact, Washington, D.C. decided to curb its landmark Initiative 17, which guaranteed emergency shelter for anyone in need.

Over the past five years the complexity of homelessness, its refusal to respond to our haphazard and short-sighted "cures," has transformed liberals into neo-fascists and Christians into people who have forgotten one of Jesus' main points: How you treat "the least of my brethren" is how you treat Christ.



EXAMINER/GORDON STUDDER

mentally unstable and sociopathic found their way to that swatch of public land and shoved their appalling existence in our faces every day.

Not surprisingly, we did not like their appalling existence in our faces. Even though we all understand society's role in such human tragedies, we prefer the least of our

brethren to be a little less surly, a little better bathed, a little sorrier that their lives are such a freaking mess.

We prefer them to be like the bulk of the homeless -- the mothers and children and disabled who barely make it from day-to-day in emergency shelters, transient hotels or rat-infested "temporary" studio apartments -- invisible and silent.

But these least of our brethren were far from invisible or silent. They made us sick and they wouldn't go away so we did what civilized societies have been doing for centuries with people they couldn't feel sorry for: We reduced them to things, and we were then free to hate them.

From there, the road was easy: It doesn't matter how or where, just get rid of them.

EXCEPT, THE mayor of San Francisco would not play ball. Against all politics and public sentiment he refused to reduce humans to things. He refused to rid Civic Center of its human eyesores until there was some humane place to send them. Despite

We don't like having the homeless in our faces. We prefer them to be invisible and silent.

our urgings, he would not tell them to go to hell.

It is a policy that may cost him second term, and it is likely to bring only complaints from the people it was intended to protect.

More disturbing for me personally, it is a policy I didn't understand until Mitch Snyder gave up and died and the people in Santa Cruz told a homeless woman to go to hell.

Salter is an Examiner columnist.

!!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!!

!!!!!!A TRASHED CAMPSITE AND A CAMPING TICKET was what Morpheus Mike Hobson found on return to his riverside sleeping spot after a day of demonstrating against police brutality on the mall May 31st. His tent slashed and possessions strewn about, all was in disarray--except for the camping ticket neatly pinned to a nearby tree. Mike wonders if a bit of revenge may have motivated the misguided gunsels who did the dirty work.

Were police trying to "even the score" for the demonstration earlier that day protesting Sgt. Hennig's "forbidden fence" assault on him the day before (see *Street Shit Sheet #73*). Could be, since Mike shared the camp with "Checkmate" John Raner, whose flag-carrying so provoked paddywagon police that they arrested him for felony assault on a police officer the same day (for struggling to keep the flag). Nah, must have been somebody else's police department.

!!!!!!ABOUT THAT POLICE BRUTALITY PROTEST.....Some cynics are suggesting police bossdom may have set up a smear with its pals at the *Santa Cruz Urinal* (known to the pious as the *Sentinel*). The *Urinal* lead paragraph (6/1) trumpeted "drug dealers arrested" at the May 31st demo. But not only did the arrests occur earlier than the parade and in another part of town, but those arrested noted the minor bust appeared to have been a set-up. The informant was apparently pressured to entrap those charged and to do so just at the time of the demonstration, according to an informant who shared a jail cell with the three alleged "pushers."

Urinal pencilpusher Mark Bergstrom was then fed the falsehoods and trumpeted them to the public with no further investigation or analysis, mingling them with "news" of the demonstration. Bergstrom dismissed the protest as some sort of bizarre Deadhead party, rather than a shocked response to Sgt. Hennig's routine and city-endorsed harassment campaign against anyone looking transient or hippie-ish on the mall near the Metro.

"Checkmate" Raner's charges were mysteriously dropped--saving the police and D.A. major embarrassment. The activist was accused of "felonious assault on a policeman with a deadly weapon" for struggling to keep possession of his own American flag, for which officers choked him to the ground. The picture of Raner struggling to hold up the flag under attack by local lawmen made the front page of the *Urinal* itself, and the local section of the *San Jose Mirk-and-Muck Schmooze*²³.

S.F. 4-2-90
Law and Order and
The Grateful Dead

In Columbia, Md., officials at the Merrifield Post Pavilion have announced that they won't book any more concerts by the Grateful Dead or Jerry Garcia because of the group's rowdy fans. Amphitheater manager Jean Parker said the decision was made in compliance with a police request.

Grateful Dead spokesman Dennis McNally said that arrests for drugs were caused by problems in society rather than the influence of the Dead. He also said that he could see no reason for the ban, because the Dead has not played there for five years and had no intention of doing so.

Meanwhile, at the Las Vegas convention of the American Booksellers Association in Las Vegas, where Dead drummer Mickey Hart was pushing his new book, "Drumming at the Edge of Magic," Harper & Row sponsored an "An Evening of Percussion with Mickey Hart and Friends" at the Sands Hotel.

After playing with Olaturji and his Drums of Passion, the Balafofon Marimba Band and others, Hart led performers and tygoers down the aisle, through the ballroom and outside onto the Strip, where he stopped traffic for 15 minutes. Drivers thought it was a political demonstration.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS
Dead heads were unfairly tarred

The Mercury News ran a photo captioned "Police, Dead fans clash" (June 1), depicting the Santa Cruz police forcibly restraining a young person next to an American flag. Apparently, your staff deems it newsworthy to paint Dead fans as unruly and unwilling to abide by our societal norms. I am a longtime fan of the Grateful Dead and have shared many wonderful times at their concerts with a large extended family of all ages -- from 2 to 70 -- and including lawyers, physicians, CPAs, presidents of major corporations, engineers, judges, public officials, even members of the U.S. Congress. We are all tired of the media misrepresenting our "family" as a cult of lawbreaking druggies.

Perhaps if the press invested the time and energy to give a fair and objective evaluation of this sociological phenomenon of music, love, sharing and friendship, we would not be excluded from great venues like the Greek Theater and Frost Amphitheater. Try it, you might like it.

Marty Feldman
Los Gatos

EAST BAY
5/23/90 SF Chronicle
Trailers in Richmond To House Homeless

RICHMOND — The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors will rent two trailers as temporary housing for the homeless rather than maintain a motel program that costs \$5,600 a day.

County authorities said the trailers would save the county \$500,000 in four months. A permanent shelter will open in September.

The trailers will be on Brookside Drive in Richmond the location of the planned permanent facility.

Meanwhile, S.C. cuts its Satellite Shell and arrests sleepers....

23 So-called because of its street community-smearing columnist Lee Quarrelsome and its abysmal news coverage of homeless rights in both San Jose and Santa Cruz. The rag is also known to the unwary as the *San Jose Mercury-News*. (See p. 17a)

!!!!!!MORE UPDATES!!!!!!MORE UPDATES!!!!!!MORE UPDATES!!!!!!YEAH!!!!!!

!!!!!!STOP FIDDLING AROUND WITH SCRIBNER! Many local streeties have a fondness for Scribner or Scope Park across from the Town Clock and protested loudly with voice and graffiti when the Garage Grill/Laird combine launched their "eat up the park" campaign last fall. With the park still in the people's hands and police pressure focused on the Homeless Table across the way, folks continue to perch there near the statue of Tom Scribner. Tom, an old-time labor radical, Wobbly, squatter, and musical saw player, lived at the St. George until he died at age 83 in 1982.

Last February the sculpted bronze bow in the right hand of the Scribner statue got broken off by some clumsy clothead and is due for replacement soon by artist Marghe McMahon. Meanwhile, busy letter writers have been urging Mayor Mardi to resist any attempts to move the statue from the park. With the bench there pulled out, we're worried the yuppie mall redesigners may have their sights trained on Tom's statue for relocation. Keep it where it is--near the gathering place of the people he devoted his life to--those rough and grubby street folks that it's becoming so fashionable to attack.

!!!!!!YET MORE BENCHES ARE DISAPPEARING FROM THE MALL, according to transit employee Doubletime Dave. Hearing that benches were vanishing across from the Metro in front of Entertainment West, as they had earlier been removed from in front of the pre-quake Bookshop Santa Cruz and Gottschalk's, Dave set out to investigate. Prompted by Hobohunter Hennig's diktat that on "his" Pacific Garden Mall, fences and planters were forbidden zones at which hippies, transients, and street people were a no-no, Dave took his search to the City Manager, Parks & Rec, and back to the Manager again. "We know nothing!" was the familiar refrain from Parks and Rec.

Know-Nothings for sure, but how long are citizens going to tolerate this "sausage" technique of quietly removing a bench at a time and pretending it's not directed against the poor? Meanwhile, word is out that benches near Union Grove Music are next in line for demolition--as well as the people's right to linger there.

6/17/90
City of S.C. **War on Thugs**

"The Santa Cruz police don't like it when you stick up for your rights," according to Mike Hobson, who says he was leaning against Union Grove Music's fence on May 30 when Sergeant Bob Hennig threw him to the ground and arrested him for trespassing. The next day, witnesses responded to Hobson's account by marching down the mall in protest. But Hobson says the demonstration, which snowballed into a procession of at least 30 people, was a response to the mistreatment of the homeless, not just him. "The demonstration resulted from a long

series of incidents," he said. "People finally got fed up." During the protest, police arrested John Rainer for carrying an American flag, alleging that the flag was a deadly weapon, according to homeless activist Robert Norse. The police spokesperson could not be reached for comment. Because of such incidents of mistreatment, homeless activists and the Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN) want to set up a civilian police review board. Similar boards exist in other cities where they handle complaints about police misconduct. Currently, Santa Cruzans can file these complaints with the police's internal affairs office, the grand jury or an independent attorney. Many find these options are either too costly or too biased.

"Police mistreatment of the homeless and people of color is uncalled for," said SCAN spokesperson John Leopold. Since people have reported cases of police harassment, he feels a review board would help improve justice. SCAN has already proposed the idea to the city council. Norse thinks the review board is needed to stop the rising levels of police harassment. "Sentinel headlines about demonstrations, incidents and arrests don't bring out the shoppers," he says. But Hobson brings the point home. "If the police can take away our [the homeless'] rights, they can take away anybody's rights."

In the News 5/28/90
SF CAN
Editor: What I read in the papers:
■ A woman, homeless, with four small children, is panhandling late at night in Union Square.
■ Over \$1 million a day is being sent to El Salvador.
Am I reading right? What happened to that old expression, "Charity begins at home"?
ALICE NORBUT
San Carlos

Give Them Shelter
Editor — I believe the homeless should have shelter but it should be required that they have a job in order to be in the shelter, which could help them find work. We need more shelters; the homeless shouldn't be in our public parks, because it looks bad in our community.
JACQUELINE S. ROSAS
San Carlos
5/28/90 SF Chron

24 The "sausage" technique of slicing off a little at a time is one familiar to the Laird City Council. During their first (and last) meeting with homeless citizens and activists in the summer of 1988, Laird and Rotkin assured the crowd that the bookshop santa cruz/ Gottschalk's benches would be back in no time. And now--two years later: no returns, more removals.

!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!HAVE WE GOT UPDATES!!!!!!UPDATES GALORE!!!!!!

!!!!!!HARD-LINE EVEN AMONG THE OLD-TIMERS is Moonrise Mike, who insisted he would continue to pursue legal claims against the city for property stolen by police on June 13th. The raid affected at least six other people--whose claims were denied by the city--but their stuff was largely returned. Moonrise insists his clothes were taken away by a trash truck, Street Sheets and literature were destroyed, and Tupperware food and water containers disappeared without a trace.

Moonrise has also expressed skepticism at negotiations between Jabberwocky Jay and the police, noting his own determination to have the Sleeping Ban itself lifted before being willing to take down the Homeless Table at night, as sought by the local blue badges.

!!!!!!GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN--Calamity Jane Imler, who is currently fighting an obscure liver disease in Missouri. Her Kitchenquest trial for "trespass" at the County Board of Supervisors last March has been delayed. Jane sends her love, and hopes to make her way West, when she can stand on her feet for more than an hour at a time.

Meanwhile her written statements under oath have persuaded the D.A.s to drop ancient trespass charges against Jabberwocky Jay. The short but pungent Homeless Table chieftain was involved in the first Kitchenquest action back in February. That night Calamity Jane closed down her Cupboard back of the River St. mini-Shelter after River St. had locked her out of the certified kitchen there. Jay and others protested by sleeping overnight there--only to be arrested because of complaints from "help the homeless" shelter bureaucrats.

YAHSAHWEH REPORTS ON HIS MEETING WITH CREDIT UNION'S TEGAN SPEISER

On June 11 I met with Tegan Speiser of the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union to discuss her concerns regarding graffiti on the rear levee-facing wall of the Credit Union building on Front Street. Speiser's concerns were reported in the minutes of the May 24 Block Captains Meeting.

Speiser said that she was disturbed after reading the minutes because they did not give a complete picture of the dialogue that occurred, and the Credit Union's position was reflected inaccurately. She emphasized that the Credit Union has absolutely no intention of fencing off the back area, as was proposed by Mickey Rebecchi of Longs and Fred Zantotto of Zantotto's.

In our conversation, Speiser expressed concern not only about the graffiti, but about the broken bottles, drug use, urination, and general trashiness behind the building. For instance, Credit Union employees are unable to open their back office windows because of the urine stench, and members are reluctant to approach the Credit Union via the river levee. She said that the Credit Union has been paying a boy to regularly clean the area, but she does not consider this to be a long-term solution. She thinks that the solution is to make the Front Street levee pleasant and usable for pedestrians by means such as murals and landscaping.

Speiser said that the Front Street merchants may hold their own block party to get to know each other and to discuss their concerns. I asked her if the merchants would include a representative of homeless people in their meeting. She took my name and phone number and said that I may be invited if the group as a whole thinks this is appropriate.

I think that the front Street levee could be a beautiful place that could be used appropriately by all residents of Santa Cruz. If the Front Street merchants and the City do decide to revitalize the levee, I propose that street people volunteer their labor and energy to this project.

Street people
to
merchants:
"Let
us
talk
Not
fight!"

Preserve mall for ordinary people

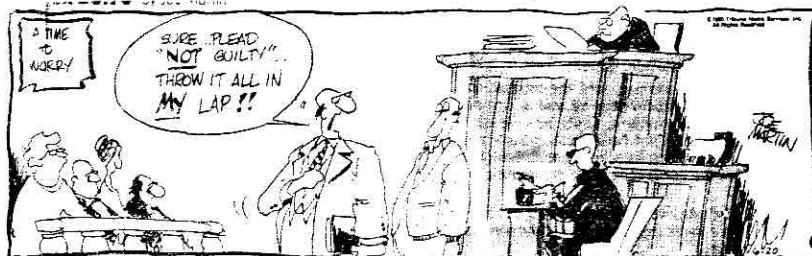
The headline of your May 8 issue "Mall dilemma, street people" indicates to me that Santa Cruz, Vision Santa Cruz, and hopefully the City Council are finally coming to grips with a problem that has been in this area for a long time. My question is, "What took you so long?"

I am sure that many of the business people of the Pacific Mall have tried to make our local politicians aware of this for years. And that part of our society that chooses to make our once-beautiful mall their hangout has made it uncomfortable for many of us to visit and/or shop in the downtown area. I cannot remember when anyone from my family has ventured downtown to shop because of the prospect of being hassled on the streets. Retailers in the downtown area face stiff competition from the other shopping areas in their county and it is just easier and more comfortable to avoid any of this confrontation.

Some say, "It's not a problem." What about the incident of one person chasing another down the street with a machete? Do we need this? And the poor unfortunate soul that died after being thrown off the bridge. And the public area being used as bathrooms. And the reports of drug dealing in the Loudon Nelson area.

The earthquake was devastating to the downtown area, but the downtown area was going "downhill" long before that fateful day. And the city council faces a tremendous challenge convincing businesses to rebuild or locate downtown. Would you gamble on a new business in the area? Consider the businesses that have closed their doors since the quake. Are the businesses in the temporary shelters flourishing? If you were in the planning department for large department store, would you gamble millions of dollars on a new store in a questionable area? Not me.

A.M. Friebel
Scotts Valley
5/20/90
S.C. Sentinel



9-DAY 'FINAL SOLUTION' HITS 250 SAN JOSE HOMELESS
POVERTY PIMPS, OFFICIALS COLLUDE IN HEALTH DEPT. HOAX

The first arrest came Thursday June 28, one day after the end of a 9-day "clean-up" of the 4-mile Guadalupe River area in downtown San Jose. It came one day after a retired judge ruled that though police must not seize homeless property or "use excessive force," the city could still uproot and deport the 250 people camped by the riverside. City officials and compliant welfare agencies had claimed that only 75 "campers" were involved. but over 250 sought services in the first few days of the 9-day "let us help you, before we drive you out" campaign.

Pablum from pet newspapers (the *San Jose Mercury News*) pictured the operation first as a response to the "health menace" of rats down by the river, then played up the "new homes and services" given the refugees. Letters critical of the homeless "hunt and remove" policy did not see print.

On May 29th Legal Aid organized the first protest at City Hall against the Guadalupe River plan. Confronted with claims of police abuse, Mayor Tom McHenry furiously refused to hear more. Earlier in the spring 350 were staying in the Armory nightly; shelters are now reportedly full or being emptied to provide temporary "cosmetic" assistance to those being driven from their homes along the riverbed.

The first four people who sued the city to stop the round-up campaign were hastily bought off with comfortable apartments. Charged Paula Kubicz, a Mental Health Advocacy worker, "the city is not really interested in offering these people services, just in providing a pretext to remove them. In a month or two, without support, they'll be back on the streets, facing 'no trespassing' signs and armed police down by the river." Noted one observer, "these people are being cleared out to provide a theme park for yuppie joggers."

Don't believe it!

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL - July 6, 1990
St. George's time has come

It has been eight months since the deadly quake of Oct. 17 and the final decision on the fate of the St. George Hotel awaits to be made. Unfortunately, many of our lovely historic building are gone but the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation is wrong. Waiting an additional six months before a decision is made would only delay the rebuilding process at the north end of the mall. Even if through-traffic were permitted, the fate of the St. George would continue to hang over the heads of the few struggling businesses which remain in the shadow of the St. George.

As a Santa Cruz native, I would hate to lose the St. George, but I urge the City Council to consider the "greatest good for the greatest number" and approve the demolition of this grand, but unsteady, old hotel.
Louis Mitchell
Santa Cruz

Norse launches out-of-town broadside

611 Hanover St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
December 18, 1989

Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

Dear Ms. or Sir,

Hey! Sounds like "trash the transients" time again at the Chronicle with your front-page fear smear "Trouble in Golden Gate Park," (Dec. 18). A year and a half ago paranoid and profit-hungry prissies mounted a similar campaign against vehicular residents and got police to begin enforcing a bigotry-born 1971 ordinance against sleeping and eating in your bar after 10 p.m. (Burger King drive-through patrons, take note!).

With numerous downtown low-income hotels now unusable because of the quake, it sounds like nouveau fascism to attack people for sleeping in the park. How about doing a researched story on selective prosecution of semaritan groups like Food not Bombs? Their unending fight with the city bureaucracy continues to this day. And all they want to do is provide food for those who need it.

Come on, Chronicle, show you're worth more than lining the seats of those shivering folks sleeping out. Instead of cozying up to right-wing vigilante squads like the Concerned Park Neighbors, it might be worthwhile to talk with the Haight-Ashbury Improvement Association before spreading further hysteria.

PAGES FROM THE HOMELESS LIBRARY:

"It is recorded of Methuselah, who being the longest lived, may be supposed to have best preserved his health, that he slept always in the open air; for when he had lived five hundred years, an angel said to him, 'Arise, Methselah, and build thee a house, for thou shalt live yet five hundred years longer.' But Methselah answered and said, 'If I am to live but five hundred years longer, it is not worthwhile to build me an house; I will sleep in the air, as I have been used to do.'"

---Benjamin Franklin, *Letter to Miss* ---, on the art of procuring pleasant dreams.

Newsman Bob Levy critically injured

EULOGIES

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BOB LEVY

...Some months ago *San Jose Mercury-News* reporter, Bob Levy died several days after a car crash on Highway 17. In the daily print media, Bob was about the only friend the Santa Cruz homeless had. When confused and malicious city officials sent in armed goon squads to arrest people for serving food to the homeless at the Town Clock, Bob Levy was there and covered the story. When, a year later, the city/county shelter boss locked up a kitchen rather than allow Calamity's Cupboard to use it, Levy was back at the Town Clock notebook in hand covering the crisis.

When his "darker brother" journalist, Lee Quarnstrom, launched another of his vitrolic attack upon Santa Cruz homeless activists as bums and parasites, Bob quietly maintained his contacts with us, and sought to spread facts, not fears, in his stories. Even Quarnstrom acknowledged his colleague's generous heart on the issues that divided them.

We hadn't heard much from him since the earthquake, but he hadn't forgotten us. And we won't be forgetting him. Bob was rarely too busy to listen patiently to the latest bizarre turn in the city's war against the homeless. He couldn't get much newspaper space, but what he put in print was fair and caring, yet from a perspective uniquely his own. The bumbashers are going to have it a little easier, now that Bob has been prematurely called from the pressroom. You told our story, Bob. You illuminated issues that are once again shrouded in ignorance. Thanks for the light. We remember and are grateful.

STATEMENT OF MITCH SNYDER SUPPORTING THE JULY 4TH RALLY

(Around noon on July 4th, organizer George Soles from the Sonoma Union of the Homeless read this statement from D.C. activist Mitch Snyder supporting the First Homeless Congress)

Dear Friends,

Because of equally intense battles here in Washington, D.C., I can't be with you in person in Santa Cruz for the First Homeless Congress. Know that if it were at all possible, I would be there. We are in solidarity with your efforts to decriminalize and end homelessness in Santa Cruz, California and throughout the country. Let there be justice, and then there may be peace. God bless you all.

--Mitch Snyder

SF Chronicle - June 19, 1990
Alternative Plan
To Jailing Drunks

Robert (Bob) Levy, who began his newspaper career as a reporter for the Register-Pajaronian in 1964 and went on to become an editor-reporter for the *San Jose Mercury News*, was in extremely critical condition this morning in a San Jose hospital from injuries suffered in a four-vehicle accident on Highway 17 yesterday afternoon.

Levy, 48, was on life-support systems at Valley Medical Center and was given little chance of survival.

For the past several years, Levy, who lived in Soquel, had been with the Santa Cruz Bureau of the *Mercury News*, and had also worked as an editor in the San Jose news room. He was returning home from his duties in the latter capacity when the accident occurred at about 5:45 p.m.

According to the Highway Patrol, Levy was driving south on the inside lane of Highway 17 near Hebard Road when, for some reason, his car swerved into a northbound lane, causing a car driven by Michelle Chappa, of San Jose, to collide with one driven by Lino Bonfante, also of San Jose, which smashed into the driver's side of Levy's vehicle. Another car, driven by Milton Johns, of Milpitas, also collided with Chappa's auto.

- San Jose
Mercury News
4/27/90

Jail inmate *SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL* found dead *JUNE 10, 1990*

SANTA CRUZ — The Coroner's Office is investigating the apparent suicide of a 32-year-old jail inmate Tuesday afternoon.

Rudolpho Rodriguez Torres, 152 Blaine St., was found "unresponsive" in his cell block and taken to Dominican Community Hospital where he was pronounced dead after efforts to revive him were unsuccessful, according to a sheriff's sergeant.

A jail inmate who called the Sentinel said Torres had hung himself, and blamed the man's death on overcrowding in the jail.

Sheriff's investigators said preliminary indications were Torres had been depressed.

An investigation is continuing, according to Sgt. Joe Heartson, who said an autopsy was pending.

Editor — It seems that throughout history during times of economic stress the search for a scapegoat is promoted and encouraged. This time it looks like the "homeless" are the chosen group to be the brunt of anger, blame and dehumanization. From this stance violence and other forms of abuse can be rationalized and justified.

The sad thing is the stereotyping of all homeless as "bums" who don't have jobs and welfare recipients is erroneous. A large segment are families who through loss of job, illness or other unforeseen circumstances find themselves in this predicament for the first time. There are others who work, but due to high rents are still unable to afford housing.

MELODIE BARCLAY
Mountain View

SFChron

The Board of Supervisors decided yesterday that public drunks should be sent to treatment centers rather than thrown in jail.

In an 8-to-1 advisory vote, the supervisors called for the development of a detoxification and treatment center to care for individuals charged with public drunkenness.

The resolution urges local law enforcement agencies and the city's health commission to develop such a program. It will not immediately affect the city's policies toward public inebriation.

Last year, there were 11,837 arrests for drunkenness, representing 13 percent of all the arrests made in the city.

REMEMBERING MITCH SNYDER

" Deep sensitivity towards the human condition can exact a high price, as evidenced by Mitch Snyder's death today. However, I believe it also can offer all of us an opportunity to reflect on our differences in the movement. Perhaps with Mitch's passing, whatever the reasons may be, we can all become in a very small way Mitch Snyders. Organize ourselves and become even more militant than we have up to this point.

Mitch always told his fellow activists that good things happened on a rainy day. And as we reflect on his death on a rainy day, we begin to question this. However, I do believe this is our opportunity to reflect, come together again, and work even harder, if for no other reason, than to make his dreams come true.

Dreams that would make it possible for folks, poor or rich, to find a place to sleep on a rainy night. A society that would step forward and feed those in need of something to eat. A country where people would have the freedom to sleep in their automobiles or out of doors, if they so choose.

There's a new star in the heavens tonight, shining down on all those folks outside. Keep twinkling, Mitch.

--Calamity Jane Imler

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Mitch Snyder, national homeless activist, died earlier today. He came to Santa Cruz in April of 1989 to support the right of the homeless to eat and share food--a right that continues to be challenged but has been fairly successfully maintained over the last nine months.

Three months ago, Mitch marched the first twenty blocks in the Santa Barbara Homeless Rights Coalition's Walk Against Sleeping Bans, a march that activist Mike Wilson finished at Homeless Independence Day yesterday. That homeless rally was the largest one ever for Santa Cruz--demanding an end to discrimination, an end to harassment for sleeping, and a commitment to equal rights and decent facilities for all.

Mitch would have been proud. He sent a message that but for his involvement in the Washington D.C. Shelter Amendment struggle, he would have been here with us. So let us mourn, and then let us organize--and keep our eye on the objective that his work made so much more real and tangible: a future where every person knows her own worth, and society is transformed to acknowledge, value, and support that worth.

Most of us who support the Homeless Table never met Mitch. But the Homeless Table continues to work to welcome the stranger and demand he be treated as a human being--with integrity, with dignity, with basic needs acknowledged, regardless of income or appearance. I think that our rage at laws that make sleeping or any other essential human need illegal was also his rage. And when the evening comes when that meanness and prejudice is washed away, it will be a victory for us all--our victory and Mitch's.

--Bathrobespierre Robert Norse

Lawsuits a Tool ^{sf Chron 5/90} For Building Homes

Low-cost housing advocates suing cities

By Steve Massey
Chronicle Staff Writer

Bolstered by their success in a lawsuit against the city of Alameda, proponents of lower-cost housing are preparing a legal assault to force other California cities to promote construction of affordable homes and apartments.

Without admitting guilt, Alameda agreed in April to an out-of-court settlement that requires it to take a variety of steps to encourage below-market housing. The city had been accused of discriminating against poorer residents through land-use policies that discouraged construction of lower-income housing.

Many cities may be vulnerable to similar legal challenges, according to groups pushing for more affordable housing.

The Alameda settlement has resulted in expansion of a redevelopment area, earmarking of more money to lower-income housing projects built by the Housing Authority or private developers and an easing of a limit on multifamily projects. This has cleared the way for construction of replacement dwellings for tenants ousted from 825 subsidized apartments that were converted to market rents.

"What this settlement says is that cities must make a maximum effort to encourage construction of low-income housing," said attorney Mike Rawson of the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County. "A lot of cities aren't even doing that," Rawson said. The legal aid society filed the lawsuit against Alameda on behalf of low-income tenants ousted from the Bridgeport Apartments.

Little-Known Law

Under a 1980 state law called the Housing Element — little known outside government and planning circles — municipalities must devise ways to provide more housing in general, with an emphasis on lower-priced residences. Those plans must be updated every five years.

However, the law has more bark than bite.

Communities are required only to make a "maximum effort" to meet their goals by adopting measures such as zoning for multifamily residential construction. Even then, cities can ignore the law because the State Department of Housing and Community Development, which administers it, has no authority to penalize cities that fail to comply.

In the wake of the Alameda settlement, proponents of low-cost housing are turning to the courts or enforcement.

A suit has been filed against Seal Beach in Orange County for failing to update its Housing Element plan since 1982, and several more lawsuits are in the works.

"We are serious about this, and we are going to be using the judicial process a lot more if cities are being so recalcitrant," said lobbyist Ann Harrington of the California Coalition of Rural Housing.

Lawsuits as Impetus

Adds Richard LeGates, urban affairs professor at San Francisco State University: "A couple of lawsuits could give communities a good whack on the head and get them started toward thinking seriously about the problem."

At the heart of the debate is a concern that California cities are faced with so many obstacles to

building low-cost housing that there is little they can do.

Even critics admit that skyrocketing land prices, limits on property tax increases and environmentalist-inspired growth limits conspire to impede lower-cost housing development. Government subsidies for housing, a major source of financing in the 1960s and 1970s, also have been slashed.

"It is difficult to provide affordable housing for a variety of reasons, particularly for older cities like Alameda, which is almost fully developed and has little land for expansion," said Lida Budko, Alameda's acting planning director. "But we will do our best," Budko said.

Still, proponents of low-cost housing accuse cities of a poor effort. Although polls consistently show Californians want something done about the lack of affordable housing, officials at the local level rarely buck a vocal not-in-my-back-yard constituency, Harrington said.

In a survey earlier this year, the California Coalition of Rural Housing found that the state is meeting only 16 percent of its statewide affordable housing goal, leaving California about 502,000 short of what is needed to house lower-income residents, Harrington said.

Only three of 83 cities in the nine-county Bay Area region — Larkspur, Fairfax and Suisun City — have provided the amount of low-cost housing they were assigned as their regional "fair share" during the 1980s, according to the Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored research organization.

Determination of a community's fair share of housing is based on a complex formula using state job and population statistics. The state then assigns a housing quota to regional planning authorities, who in turn allot a quota to each local government.

The housing crunch is a major concern for businesses, LeGates said. "When we talk lower-income housing, we're not just talking housing for unemployed or welfare-dependent — you can earn \$30,000 and still be defined as low-income by the state. Businesses see that and say, 'That is my secretarial pool, my janitors, the maintenance workers.' That's also firemen, policemen. Heck, that's some professors at San Francisco State."

Underscoring those concerns, the California Chamber of Commerce has been promoting a bill by Senator Leroy Greene that would force cities to provide lower-cost housing before going forward with market-rate projects.

-359
Washington Post
SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1990 A23

Colman McCarthy

Mitch Snyder's Secret

Mitch Snyder, dead at 46, had only one gift: for rousing himself and others to believe in the beyond. Beyond comforts. Beyond pieties. Beyond conventional and all other risk-free dodges.

The last time I saw his talent at work was a few months ago over a late-night meal at the Community for Creative Nonviolence, where Snyder lived among 1,200 poor people in the nation's largest refuge for the destitute. I had dropped by with an undergraduate from the University of Notre Dame, a young woman studying in Washington for a semester.

We were coming back from class, where Snyder had been earlier in the evening from 7 to 9:30. He had visited often with my students over the years when the need arose for someone to exemplify what Soren Kierkegaard described in "For Self Examination": We "forget or ignore the fact that the truly simple way of presenting Christianity is—to do it."

In class that evening Snyder didn't bathe his remarks with either role- or game-playing. Many had seen the "60 Minutes" segment on him or the Martin Sheen film about his Samaritan work and were prepped for an evening with a star. He stopped that fantasy by commenting early and credibly about universities. If any of you had any real intelligence, he said, a campus is the last place you'd be. You're wasting your time here, cramming your heads with theories, rules and other seizures of the spirit, while beyond the campus is a world heaving with pain and chaos, and poor people needing the mercies that everyone in the classroom could share.

In the fall of 1985 Snyder came to a class at American University. He offered the same thought about universities: "All you're doing is perpetuating that long and rich history that all of us are stuck with—of having people who are bigger, older, stronger and more powerful tell us what to do...."

"Why do you think kids would run out of class if they could? Because the classes aren't what the kids want or need.... But we don't listen. We create, and have created, a society of people who will accept any injustice, any absurdity, any insanity and will step over the broken bodies of bag ladies who are mentally disabled, raped repeatedly, freezing to death and eating out of garbage pails."

Faced Huge IRS Suit

Washington — Homeless advocate Mitch Snyder faced IRS demands for about \$90,000 at the time of his apparent suicide last week but was looking forward to turning the issue into a forum on national priorities, friends said yesterday.

His longtime companion, Carol Fennelly, said the Internal Revenue Service sent Snyder a preliminary notice, dated June 17, demanding \$50,000 in back taxes plus \$40,000 in penalties to cover \$150,000 he received in 1985 and 1986 from television producers for the rights to his story.

"We refused to respond to their silliness," she said. "Obviously, he did not have that kind of money, and if he did, he wouldn't give it to them. He saw it as an opportunity to have a forum to address national priorities."



BY LUCIAN PERPINE—THE WASHINGTON POST

His Friends Remember: 'He Looked Out for Us'

News Travels Swiftly Among D.C. Homeless

By Gabriel Escobar and Stephen Buckley
Washington Post Staff Writers

"Cookie! Cookie!" Brenda Simmons called from her streetcorner bench. "Mitch is dead."

"Oh my God."

"Up here. About two and a half hours ago," she went on. "He hung himself."

"What was the purpose of it?" asked the man, who is 31 and had just turned the corner onto Second Street NW, where the crowd was beginning to form outside the Community for Creative Non-Violence shelter.

Summers, who was sharing a cigarette and beer from a plastic Pizza Hut cup with two others, paused.

"He was probably under a lot of pressure," she said. And then, almost as if she had just understood the message she had been delivering, Summers cried quietly.

"We worked together in all the marches, and I'm going to miss him very much, and I can't believe he's dead," she said.

By 3:30 p.m., everyone inside and outside the shelter had heard the news. Some got it from Summers, who sat on her bench and delivered the news cold and straight and with no embellishments.

A few cried. Some were angry. Others stood and simply expressed disbelief, over and over again. A man with a prosthesis on his leg went around shaking hands, until there were too many hands, and then he simply walked away.

Scores looked down from the building's 100-plus windows facing Second Street. They saw Police Chief Isaac Fulwood Jr. come in, and then later, Jesse L. Jackson, and still later Mayor Marion Barry.

And as the afternoon wore on, those who live in the building found themselves trying to explain what it all meant.

"I think I was here when the place opened," said Charlotte Dudley, 60, who like many others stood in a silent vigil behind the building.

"I used to be out there at all the meetings. Out in the cold."

"He's a mighty fine man, that's all," she said. "That'll wrap it up. He was a mighty fine man."

The news of Snyder's suicide spread through the network of homeless people. One man heard about five blocks away from another homeless man and hurried to the scene. Karen McGill set out to tell the homeless across town, where

she used to stay. Some, very few, were critical of Snyder.

About 4 p.m., a stranger approached Jerome Simmons on Lafayette Square and told him, Simmons, lying on a light blue blanket beneath a tree in the park, bolted upright.

"For real?" he asked. "Damn. I don't believe it."

Simmons, 31, said he spent three months at the CCNV shelter.

"He understood the homeless," said Simmons. "He looked out for us. I feel sorry he's gone. I don't know who we're going to look to now."

Over at Farragut Park, Haskell Carter, who was cutting cardboard with a pair of scissors, partly agreed with Phillips.

Carter, who said he has been homeless seven years, said he spent 1986 to 1988 at CCNV. He said he felt he had lost a friend. "He was very conscientious, very sincere," said Carter, surrounded by his belongings, contained in three plastic bags and a vinyl bag. "He was more than an advocate."

At the cluster of trailers for the homeless at 27th and I streets NW, Roger Hutchinson lay on his back, smoking a cigarette, his head against his backpack. Yes, he said, he'd heard the news. In fact, he said he knew Snyder very well.

Hutchinson, 26, said he served as a hall monitor for part of the two years he spent at CCNV. He left the shelter in March, and said he was constantly impressed by Snyder's ability to mobilize the homeless. He remembered going to court last year, when Snyder was battling to get trailers for the homeless open at Foggy Bottom. That day, Hutchinson recalled, 1,200 homeless people joined Snyder in court.

Outside CCNV, while the crowd waited for Jackson and Barry to come out, Brenda Bledsoe and Rob Sanders and Alva Bryant stood in the rain. They talked about Snyder and the comfort he gave them: stainless steel sinks, four private bathrooms for women, warmth in winter.

"Have you seen the place inside?" asked Bryant. "Beautiful. Beautiful. It's like not being homeless."

Sanders stood still. Bledsoe spoke about Snyder's insistence on dignity for the homeless: "Each one of us wants to work toward that end, being a spoke in that wheel...."

And then Sanders said: "We don't know what to look forward to now."

Snyder Symbolized Plight of Homeless

By J.Y. Smith
Washington Post Staff Writer

Mitch Snyder, 46, who was found yesterday at the shelter he ablished in downtown Washington, was a single-minded, charismatic and visionary social activist who de the homeless a part of the ion's unfinished business.

An ascetic, impassioned man who ssed in donated clothes and of-slept on grates as a gesture of idarity with the unfortunates for om he worked, Snyder made his ne and his cause known in the heat reaches of the government, liding the White House. His or-zation was the Community for rative Non-Violence, of which he l been the leading figure in re- it years, and his chief weapon i the fast.

le was unsparing of himself in use of it, and at different times directed it against targets as erse as a prosperous Catholic ish in Georgetown and the na- tional government.

n 1984, he fasted for 51 days to pel the government to turn r to the CCNV a dilapidated lding at 425 Second Street NW. o days before the presiden- tial election, and with "60 Minutes" sed to bring the dispute to a na- tional television audience, the Re- administration announced that ould make the gift and that \$6 lion would be spent to turn it o a motel facility for the home- s. When delays developed, Sny- fasted twice more.

During the same election season, campaigned for District voters pass a referendum called Initia- 17, obligating the city to pro- se shelter for every homeless son. The measure was the first ts kind in the nation. On June 26 his year, the D.C. Council voted reduce services provided under program because of the cost.

ionized by some as a savior of poor and the downtrodden, Sny- was denounced by others as a slichy-hungry gadfly whose hun- strikes were a form of political cmail and whose programs re more rhetoric than substance. His answer was, "When you re-ent powerless people, you have ight every step of the way."

The 1984 strike and its outcome de him a national figure. In ad- on to being on "60 Minutes," his ry was told in a television film ed "Samaritan: The Mitch Sny- Story." Martin Sheen, who yed the title role, called him "a t." In 1988, Washington film- er Ginny Durring made a docu- mentary about him called "Prom- is to Keep," which received an idemy Award nomination.

In addition, there were speak- ing engagements, fund-raising events, much attention from the media. was on the Geraldo Rivera show l many others. At one occasion, guests included Valerie Harper, nice Shriver, Jack Valenti and mbers of Congress. He met Jane nda.

At Christmas in 1987, the CCNV eived a \$5,000 donation from Soviet Peace Fund.

The man who did these things s born Mitchell Darryl Snyder in oklyn, N.Y., and the first 25 rs of his life were spent on an irely different course than the t that made him famous. He at- ended Erasmus Hall High School in oklyn, but dropped out. He ned to breaking into parking mes and was sent to a reform ool.

On Oct. 13, 1963, he married



Snyder with Ellen Kleiman, whom he married in 1963. He later left his family after becoming an activist against the war and homelessness. At right, Snyder watches a District Building protest in 1980.



Mitch Snyder in 1978, left, conferring with his lawyer, Philip Hirschkop, on the 41st day of his fast at the Convent of Holy Trinity Parish in Georgetown, to prevent any attempt to force feed him; in 1981, center, being arrested after he refused to leave "Irreaganville" tent community protest in Lafayette Park; and in 1982, lying in bed on the 62nd day of his water-only fast.



Ellen Kleiman, now Ellen Daly. He was so short of money during their courtship that she generally had to pay when they went to the movies. Sometimes they would go to Union Square, the place where soapbox speakers congregate in New York. "All of a sudden he would get up and start to talk," she told The Washington Post in an interview in 1988. "It was more or less about communism and politics and all that. He could draw crowds. He was always able to draw crowds."

But there were few signs that Snyder would become a social reformer. Instead, he went to work selling vacuum cleaners and other appliances—"He could sell anything because he had the gift of gab," his wife said—and the couple had two children, Ricky and Dean.

When Snyder couldn't make enough to support them, he started cashing bad checks. In 1969, he left them and went to California. In 1970, he and a check-cashing companion from New York were arrested in Las Vegas on a charge of stealing the car in which they were riding. Snyder was sentenced to three years in the federal prison in Danbury, Conn.

While he was there, his wife visited him every two weeks, and the plan was that they would start over when he got out. Then, one day Ellen got a call from prison officials telling her that Mitchell, as she called him, was on a hunger strike

to protest the use of "tiger cages" by the United States in Vietnam.

Ellen Daly said this behavior seemed entirely inexplicable—what did it have to do with the wife and kids in Brooklyn?—and that it jeopardized his chances of winning parole.

"She basically wanted me to be like other people, and I basically wasn't like other people," Snyder told The Post.

In fact, he served his full sen-

tence at Danbury. When he was released, it was apparent that the marriage was over.

What had happened to bring about so radical a change in Snyder's perceptions was that he had met the Berrigan brothers, Daniel and Phillip, the Jesuit priests who had been jailed for destroying draft records. They turned him to social activism. He led his first hunger strikes while still in Danbury, and he said they gave him a "sense of power."

In 1973, Snyder came to Washington. He joined the CCNV, which had been founded by Edwin Guinan, a former Paulist priest. He first came to public attention on Christmas Day, when he and a companion were arrested for climbing the White House fence to protest the war in Vietnam.

By the mid-1970s, Snyder was concentrating on the homeless as his chief issue. His first widely publicized fast occurred in 1978, when he took on the parish of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown.

While attending Mass there, he heard the priest praise his work among the poor. So he asked the parish for a donation. When it refused, he began a hunger strike that lasted 51 days. Finally, church officials seemed to relent. But when money was not forthcoming after several weeks, Snyder began another fast. He called it off when parishioners voted not to cave into his demands.

Snyder said he wished to bring the plight of the homeless to the attention of prosperous people of Georgetown. Many of the parishioners and their legal advisers said he was trying to blackmail them.

Snyder's most recent cause was opposing efforts by federal census takers to count the homeless. He said the count would be too low and that it would be used to make policy decisions that would not meet the needs of the disadvantaged.

This spring, he announced he would take a leave from CCNV and

go on an extended retreat at a Trappist monastery in Berryville, Va. "I'm a religious person, and from time to time it's important to renew our relationship with God," he said. He said he wanted to meditate and "do simple work like baking bread."

He also announced that at the end of the summer he and Carol Fennelly, his companion and colleague for 14 years, would be married.

In 1985, after 15 years in which he had never tried to contact his wife and sons, Snyder received a telephone call from Ellen Daly, who said she had seen television coverage of his 1984 fast. As a result, he was able to meet his sons. He agreed to contribute to their education and he and his former wife became friends.

Snyder said in 1988 that abandoning his family had caused him great pain over the years, but he had been unable to do otherwise. He offered this assessment of his life:

"I don't consider myself a good person. I tend to be very impatient. I tend to be very short, I tend to make heavy demands on people. I don't have time or energy to give much one-on-one, and so I'm very hard on people around me. I take much more than I give. I give to people in the shelter. I give to people on the streets. I give to people who are suffering, but that's got little to do with people who are around me. They pay the price."



CCNV shelter resident Jewel Tribble, center, is comforted by her friends.

Mitch had
to deal with
this ... →

Editor — What has happened to San Francisco? There was a time not too long ago when we looked forward to going to San Francisco. We shopped, dined, attended the theater, walked in Golden Gate Park and went to the zoo and the museums.

We no longer set foot in San Francisco because of the aggressive panhandlers and derelicts. No matter where you go you cannot escape

them. Going to San Francisco now is like leaving civilization and stepping into a totally unregulated underworld. The raving, profanity and spitting on or at you are unbelievable.

What a tragedy that this has been allowed to occur to what was once a glorious city.

ROBERT L. KILPATRICK
Concord

... So do we...

LATE FLASHES.....LATE FLASHES.....LATE FLASHES.....LATE FLASHES.....

KANGAROO KELLY WRITES BLANK CHECK FOR HENNIG'S HOBOHUNTERS
COURT OKS WARRANTLESS SEIZURE, 7 MONTH DETENTION OF BEDDING

The lingering hopes of some die-hard idealists died yesterday afternoon (July 11) when an amiable but gutless municipal court judge made a sinister ruling on a Suppression Motion in the January 26th "Public Nuisance" case of Jabberwocky Jay Green and Linda the Lark Edwards.

Last winter, smiling and armed public servants stripped homeless demonstrators of blankets, bedding, literature, Xmas trees, signs, legal papers, and shoes at the Homeless Table Vigil near the post office. But SCPD higher-ups were embarrassed by barefoot homeless men knocking at their door and asking for their blankets back. Apparently such old-time favorites as "abandoned" and "impounded as evidence of camping" were wearing thin as excuses to rob people of their survival gear.

So, whizz-kids at Sleepbuster Central, possibly in collusion with the City Attorney and/or D.A.'s office, came up with a musty 1872 state law regulating "roads and rivers:" the "Public Nuisance" frame-up. On January 26 without a warrant to search and seize, Hennig's hit team struck the Homeless Table, charging four people with "Nuisance" misdemeanors and carrying off the Homeless Table along with the possessions and basic civil rights of the demonstrators.

In a mean, callous, and calculated harassment strategy, for months after the incident the D.A.'s office refused to release the personal property locked up, even though they had extensive photographs of the scene. After a bit of "we can't find the police report" doubletalk, the D.A.'s office under Supervisor "Pretty Bizarre" and Paul "Martial Law" Marigonda moved to reinforce the police message to the homeless: "hit the trail or lose your blankets." (cont.)

7/13/90 SC Sentinel
Bedrolls can be seized, judge says

Ruling in trial of homeless-rights advocate

By GREG BEEBE
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — The police practice of confiscating the belongings of homeless and homeless-rights advocates when writing tickets for city infractions does not violate First Amendment rights, a Municipal Court judge has ruled.

Judge Tom Kelly on Wednesday determined that police do not need search warrants to seize possessions of street people as evidence of alleged infractions, including maintaining a public nuisance, blocking a sidewalk and illegal camping.

The ruling came as a result of a motion to suppress evidence in the upcoming public-nuisance trial of homeless-rights activist Jay Green, 33.

Green's attorney, Margaret Marr, argued in the hearing that her client's "First Amendment

rights to political discourse" were violated by Santa Cruz Police officers, who searched and seized belongings — illegally and without warrants, she said — from the so-called "homeless table" at Front and Water streets Jan. 26 in one of more than a dozen raids this year.

Green and another activist were ticketed for maintaining a public nuisance. Marr and the activists claim the seizures are part of a police effort to deny the activists' free-speech rights, and to discourage the activists' ongoing protests at the table against the city's camping ban, which makes it illegal to sleep outdoors between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

The judge ruled otherwise, likening the items taken from the homeless table — bedrolls, sleeping bags, backpacks and personal effects — to police searches and confiscations in an automobile.

"I'm deeply saddened and terribly troubled by this decision," Marr said. "Some very poor people have lost everything they own to the police. Where I come from, that is not only wrong, it is cruel."

Marr said she would probably appeal the issue.

Prosecutor Paul Marigonda could not be reached for comment.

Santa Cruz Police continue to make

regular visits to the homeless table, located next to the downtown Post Office, writing tickets for public nuisance infractions and, at night, for illegal camping.

Judge Kelly reminded the police that when making busts at the table, they should continue to leave the actual table and homeless-rights literature on it, as it is protected by free-speech rights and does not constitute a public nuisance. Such things as bedrolls, however, are not protected by First Amendment rights to

Youths complain of 'harassment'

SANTA CRUZ — About 30 youths who described themselves as earth children filed complaints with the Police Department Wednesday after a sergeant wrestled one of their friends to the ground during an arrest on Pacific Avenue.

Deputy Chief Mike Dunbaugh said the complaints would be thoroughly investigated. "We take each complaint seriously," Dunbaugh said.

Jeff Sandow claimed that he and others who hang out at the south end of the mall are harassed by police "just because we look different."

Michael Goodrich said he has been harassed every day since he came to town from Vermont two weeks ago.

Many of the youths described themselves as travelers who come and go from Santa Cruz.

Most said they just walk away when the police sergeant comes by. "He just comes up with his ticket book and asks who wants a ticket," Sandow said.

"Sometimes he'll come up and ask if we like football. Then, he'll say, 'well this is your two-minute warning (to get off the mall),' "

added Brad Smith. The struggle Wednesday was the last straw, he said. "Somebody got hurt for no reason," Smith said.

Emery Rodgers said he would expect a tough police stance in Texas, "but this is Santa Cruz. Everybody here was a hippie at some time," he said.

Witnesses said the man was wrestled to the ground after he tried to walk away from the officer, who had told him not to lean against a fence near the Union Grove music store.

Store owner Richard Gillis told

the Sentinel that he is receiving increasing complaints from customers about being panhandled and verbally insulted by a crowd of about 40 young people who gather every day on the corner across from the Transit Center.

Gillis also complained that the young people urinate in his dumpster enclosure.

"Our corner has gotten very bad in the past two to three weeks," he said.

"It's not against the law for them to gather and I don't mind that, but they have become really abusive," Gillis said.

Dunbaugh said police are receiving increasing complaints from merchants on the lower end of the mall. He said they are experiencing problems that were prevalent in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of the mall before the earthquake.

SC Sentinel 5/31/90

S.C. Sentinel 'reports' 'news.'

-379-

S.J.M.N. 6-12-90

River dwellers await S.J.'s sweep

Homeless, advocates blast effort to weed out squatters

By Mike Cassidy
Mercury News Staff Writer

One of San Jose's largest homeless encampments is bracing for an unprecedented invasion Monday of city cleanup crews and counselors intent on forcing squatters out of long-standing settlements on the banks of the Guadalupe River — this time, for good. The city's ambitious plan — which will be

reviewed by the San Jose City Council today — gives river dwellers nine days to move out. A temporary office will be set up to help direct the homeless into shelters and social service programs, and ongoing police patrols will be started to make sure they don't move back.

"When you go down there and you see feces and when you hear the people are using the (river) water for bathing and even for drinking," City Manager Les White ex-

See HOMELESS, Page 14A

S.J.M.N. 6-12-90

River dwellers to get 9-day eviction notice

Squatters who don't move to face trespassing charges

HOMELESS, from Page 1A

White said, "It needs a lot more than one city's contribution."

Indeed, some residents living along the river said Monday they had no intention of moving into shelters. Shelter residents must move out at 6 a.m. every day and must take all their belongings with them, explained Robert Johnson, who's lived at the river for about a year.

"I don't see that people down here are hurting anybody," he said. "I'll find another hole somewhere."

White said the problem is a growing rat population and the unsanitary conditions caused by a lack of clean water and toilets.

The city council today will consider a \$155,000 plan to set up the temporary office on the river bank where homeless people will be referred to shelters, mental health services and drug- and alcohol-rehabilitation programs. Job counseling will be available, and river residents and their belongings will be driven "to appropriate locations," according to a city housing staff report to the city council.

The plan gives homeless people living on the river from Monday until June 27 to move out. Anyone remaining after that will be arrested for trespassing, according to the plan.

Most of the money needed for the plan would go to the San Jose Conservation Corps, which would notify squatters of the relocation order. Once the river residents are cleared out, the corps would tear

down any remaining shanties and bundle and tag any remaining belongings. Eventually, the city plans to restore the river to its natural state.

About \$36,000 would pay for 30 additional beds at the Montgomery Street shelter for three months. White said he hoped the county would contribute more money to keep those beds available for a longer period.

White said other shelters had agreed to reserve space for the other 45 or so homeless who will be in need of shelter. He said he is also lobbying the state to allow the San Jose National Guard Armory

to be used as a shelter year-round, instead of only during the winter.

But Paula Kubicz, of the Mental Health Advocacy Project, said the reservation system means those who already are using the county's overcrowded shelters will be moved out to make room for the Guadalupe River refugees. And she said the crowded conditions and disruptive lifestyle afforded by the armory are not satisfactory.

"What I would like to see is a long-term, year-round shelter for this population that is funded by the city," she said.

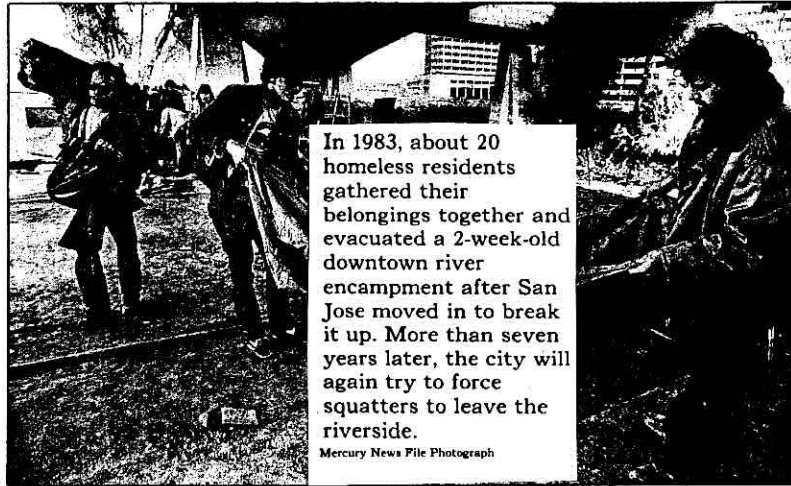
Kubicz said she also was disturbed by the city's figures on the

homeless population along the river. In April, as many as 200 were living along the Guadalupe, city figures show. Now the number is 75.

White says he isn't sure why the balance of the homeless left the river or where they went.

City and county officials and a team of social workers have been operating a temporary placement office near the river since June 18.

As of Tuesday night, 50 of those asking for help had been placed in temporary shelters, 27 had been placed in permanent housing, and 15 had been accepted in alcohol or drug detoxification programs, said Alex Sanchez, the city housing director.



In 1983, about 20 homeless residents gathered their belongings together and evacuated a 2-week-old downtown river encampment after San Jose moved in to break it up. More than seven years later, the city will again try to force squatters to leave the riverside.

Mercury News File Photograph

S.J.M. 6-28

Judge OKs arrests of S.J. river dwellers

By Mike Cassidy
Mercury News Staff Writer

San Jose's plan to arrest the homeless who will not leave the banks of the Guadalupe River will go on as scheduled today, after a judge rejected an advocacy group's request that the action be stopped.

Lawyers for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County argued that the city had a responsibility to find shelter for the more than 220 people who have asked for help under an ambitious two-week plan to move the homeless away from the river.

They asked the judge to forbid any arrests until all those people are placed in temporary or permanent homes.

Retired Appellate Court Judge Harry Brauer, on assignment to the Superior Court, said no law or ruling requires the city to find housing for everyone who requests it. But he granted a Legal Aid Society request that city officials be barred from destroying property or using excessive force when making arrests during the sweep of the river.

City and county officials and a team of social workers have been operating a temporary placement office near the river since June 18.

As of Tuesday night, 50 of those asking for help had been placed in temporary shelters, 27 had been placed in permanent housing, and 15 had been accepted in alcohol or drug detoxification programs, said Alex Sanchez, the city housing director.



San Jose police officers arrested an unidentified man found sleeping near the Guadalupe River. S.F. CHRONICLE. FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1990

Crackdown on Homeless Launched in San Jose

Police clearing riverbank of 200 squatters

By David Strytewer
Chronicle South Bay Bureau

The long-awaited crackdown on one of the oldest encampments of the homeless in San Jose started yesterday with the arrest of a man who was sleeping in a stupor along the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The single arrest yesterday marked the beginning of a new get-tough policy to stop squatters from turning the river area into an informal campground for about 200 of the city's homeless people.

For the past two weeks, the city has operated a relocation center near the river to help the homeless find apartments or move into shelters. Jim McEntee, director of the city's Human Relations Commission, estimated that about 100 of more than 300 applicants plan to move into permanent housing. Others are taking spots in shelters until more permanent housing opens up.

Late yesterday afternoon, city crews began clearing out the hundreds of belongings and trash left along the river banks in a job that could take a week to complete. Several longtime residents of the area had packed their belongings into shopping carts and were awaiting keys to their new apartments.

Even those who had nowhere

to go last week managed to find places in time to avoid arrest.

Richard Lopez and his brother Johnny, who have lived underneath a makeshift tent on the riverbank for three years, said they are moving into a two-bedroom apartment. Two other Lopez brothers also are moving into an apartment, and one is planning to live in Oregon.

Others have lived along the river for only a few months and are glad to leave. "This is not me," said Somaya Stevenson, 23, who moved to the river after bouncing from shelter to shelter. "I can't wait to have my own place. And a shower. That's the first thing I'm going to do."

The relocation center has attracted drifters and homeless people from throughout the city. McEntee said the first priority has been to place riverbank residents who are threatened by the crackdown, but others also have found beds.

Ross Mickey, a 51-year-old drug counselor from Miami, stopped at the center yesterday to find a shelter bed for a deaf friend. "I'm working here until I get enough money, and I'm gone to Oregon," Mickey said.

Registration
6-29-90

R.P. 6-29-90

Homeless swept from SJ riverbank

SAN JOSE (UPD) - Police staged a well-publicized sweep Thursday of the downtown Guadalupe River to remove the homeless from makeshift camps, but only one of the riverbank's estimated 250 denizens was at home.

The unidentified man, who officers said was so intoxicated he couldn't walk, was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of trespass.

An orange jumpsuit-clad, gloved cleanup crew from the city's Conservation Corps followed police officers down a 2-mile stretch of the placid river, picking up trash, dismantling and tagging tents, bedrolls and other paraphernalia left behind.

The homeless were being removed from along the river in response to public health hazard concerns. The river water is so laced with trace metals that fish are unsafe to eat. In addition, incidences of disease and violence have been on the upswing along the Guadalupe, Alex Sanchez, director of the San Jose Housing Department, said.

City and Santa Clara County officials, along with church and self-help groups, have been operating a temporary placement office near the river since June 18. To date, more than 120 people have been relocated and more than 100 were still being processed by city officials and volunteers, Sanchez said.

"We're offering a number of services," said Bill Newkirk, a city housing officer. "We're trying to refer them to as many services as they need. Getting IDs for

them, getting alcohol drug rehab when it's needed and helping them go home, if they want to. We're giving them temporary housing."

But some of the ousted squatters felt they were more homeless than before.

"I live here, you know, and now we got no place to go," said Ty Hardin, 25.

"I've got an ID card and a part time job - I have that," Hardin said. "I still don't have no place to go. I can't pay \$200 a month for rent."

"This ain't for the people on the river anymore," added Hardin, who has been living along the Guadalupe for a year and a half.

Once word of the relocation assistance project got out, members of the city's estimated 3,000 homeless flocked to the aid station from other parts of San Jose in hopes of finding subsidized rental units, forcing the river people away, Hardin complained.

But John Gentry, 44, and Sharon Richard, who had been living on the river bank together off and on for the last year, said they were pleased at the turn of events.

"The reason I'm here is because my landlord and I didn't get along," Gentry said.

The help groups at the aid station were making it possible to get back into an apartment. "They even have vans to take you to DMV and Valley Med (Center) and to Social Services," he said.

Shoved down the river

In clearing the Guadalupe for a park, San Jose is just shuffling the homeless

IF the Guadalupe were a much shorter river, the Guadalupe River Assistance Plan might make more sense.

The plan may work as land management, but it fails - and badly - as homeless policy. It's neither comprehensive enough, nor well-guided enough, to do the job it sets for itself.

The measure, which the San Jose City Council almost certainly will approve tonight, is being billed as "a comprehensive homeless assistance plan that addresses the health, safety, social service and housing issues resulting from homeless persons living along the Guadalupe River." In reality, it's much less.

The main effect of the plan will be to clear a four-mile section of the Guadalupe, between interstates 880 and 280, of its dwindling homeless population. On Monday, the area will be posted and squatters informed that they have until June 27 to get out. Those remaining past that date will be cited for trespassing.

There is nothing wrong with the city wanting to reclaim this particular stretch of the Guadalupe. The presence in the area of a large homeless population has resulted in serious health and law enforcement problems for surrounding downtown neighborhoods, and would be an impediment to the imminent development of the Guadalupe River Park.

City officials say increased police activity has reduced the number of homeless people living on the Guadalupe from more than 200 two months ago to from 60 to 75 today, and there's no reason to doubt those figures. But, it's important to remember that the tally was taken only within the plan's target area.

Not accounted for are the people living

up or down river from the four-mile zone, or those who have claimed space on the banks of Coyote Creek to the east. Some migrated to these areas from downtown after the police crackdown began; others were already there.

When all river and creek dwellers are counted, people who work with the homeless say, the population is anywhere from 300 to 500. The proposed assistance plan would do nothing for most of them. For that matter, the prospects of providing meaningful assistance to those who are reached isn't good.

Barry Del Buono, whose Emergency Housing Consortium operates emergency shelters at area National Guard armories during the winter, says the river and army populations are virtually the same, consisting mainly of social outsiders who don't want to be part of society's mainstream so much as they want to exist quietly on its periphery.

The best place for such people, Del Buono says, is in the no-strings-attached environment of an armory shelter. Generally they shun traditional shelters where participation in various programs is required.

And yet, it's in this second type of facility that the city plans to put the river dwellers, spending \$36,000 - all the money earmarked for homeless relocation under the \$125,000 plan - to add 30 beds at the Montgomery Street shelter. Those who can't be accommodated at existing shelters may be given vouchers for a month's rent at motels - another non-solution.

The answer would be for the state to keep the National Guard armories open year-round, but the governor says no. So it's left to the city and county to somehow muster the money and political will needed to operate an armory-style shelter of their own.

Failing that, the sort of homelessness that's personified by the river dwellers will persist. And plans like the one to be approved tonight won't change that.

A Berkeley Proposal to Outlaw Loitering Around Illegal Drugs

By Debra Levi Holt
Chronicle Correspondent

A proposed Berkeley law to prevent suspected drug users from loitering in areas known for illicit dealing has been blasted by civil rights lawyers, who say the ordinance would encourage police harassment of innocent bystanders.

The ordinance, designed to give police officers another weapon in the war on drugs, would prohibit people from loitering "with the intent to buy, sell, transfer or use illegal drugs" within 100 feet of any liquor store, bar or abandoned building. The ordinance could also outlaw similar activity in any city park and in coin-operated laundries that are open more than 16 hours a day.

Such locations are hot spots for sales of crack cocaine and other illegal drugs, according to the Berkeley Police Department.

If the ordinance is adopted, a violation would be a misdemeanor - an offense generally punishable by up to a year in county jail.

The Berkeley City Council was scheduled to consider the proposed ordinance last night.

John Crew, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the ordinance would give Berkeley police officers broad powers to harass people by conducting "fishing expeditions for people who might be dealing drugs."

"The reality is that people can loiter in these locations for any number of innocent reasons,

Crew said. "A police officer will have no reasonable grounds to distinguish between people waiting for their laundry to get done and those who intend to buy or sell drugs."

Crew, who successfully challenged an anti-loitering law in San Francisco in 1983, said the proposed Berkeley ordinance would

An ACLU official said police would use the law for 'fishing expeditions'

require police to become "mind-readers" in order to determine whether a person has the intent to buy or sell drugs.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that California's anti-loitering law was unconstitutional because it was vague and likely to lead to discriminatory enforcement by police. The law prevented loitering of any kind. As in past rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court said freedom of movement was a constitutional right.

In 1988, however, the California Supreme Court upheld a state law that banned loitering around public toilets with the intent to commit a lewd act, such as prostitution.

Berkeley City Attorney Manuel Albuquerqure relied on the 1988 ruling to conclude that the pro-

posed Berkeley ordinance is constitutional.

The 1988 ruling, Albuquerque said, holds that police officers can determine an individual's "intent" under certain circumstances. They special conditions could include: the location of the loitering and police knowledge of the suspect and his criminal record.

According to Albuquerque, the 1988 ruling would also allow police, under certain circumstances to determine whether someone intends to sell or deal drugs while loitering.

"This ordinance will give police another tool to deal with the awful violence in our community," said Albuquerque. "I think it's our obligation to provide them with that tool."

Crew contends that the law is unnecessary because anyone arrested for possessing drugs would likely be charged with drug possession, a felony, and not with loitering, which would be a misdemeanor.

"The ACLU certainly realizes that there is a devastating drug problem in the Bay Area and in Berkeley," said Crew. "But creating laws that are going to invite arbitrary enforcement and strain relations between police and the community isn't going to solve the drug problem."

The Alameda County district attorney's office in Berkeley agreed with Albuquerque that the proposed anti-loitering law is constitutional, but the district attorney's office added that the crime would be difficult to prove and seldom charged.

San Jose homeless fight

City Hall, developers unleash the cops

by S. Perry

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— "Please don't burn my blankets," said a homeless Candy Russell to the City Council. It didn't matter. Council members were busy finalizing plans for a bloody campaign against homeless people.

The "Guadalupe River Evacuation Plan," full of rhetoric about "shelter" and "service," simply means forced eviction, violent police assaults, and destruction of the few personal possessions of the homeless.

Yet a fight to stop the plan began at a City Hall protest May 29. Protesters saw Richard Mellott take the podium, turn his head to one side, and part his hair revealing a jagged scar above his temple. "This is what this plan is all about," he said. "This is what the San Jose Police did to me for sleeping by the Guadalupe River."

For a decade the Council planned the removal of low-income workers from downtown in order to maximize profits of developers and retailers. Many became homeless. Now they are unleashing police to physically clear them out altogether.

Officers on horseback have rousted the homeless out of all downtown parks. "This park is for taxpayers only," they say. "Get your --- down to the Mission where you belong."

The Mayors Task Force on Housing stated San Jose must build 16,000 moderate and low-income housing units in the next five years, just to maintain the status quo (the status quo is 20,000 homeless in Santa Clara County). The Council has created less than half.

People's Tribune 6/90

S.F. plaza campers evicted

100 transients ousted in pre-dawn raid by police

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Under a deadline imposed by Mayor Art Agnos, more than two dozen officers raided Civic Center Plaza before dawn Friday and gently roused some 100 transients out of their illegal encampment across from city hall.

Only a few hours after the police action, during which five people were arrested, the plaza was "re-

claimed" by ordinary citizens. Mothers wheeled their babies on the paths; old men sat on the benches, reading newspapers and chatting; kids fed the pigeons. Some folks inspected the pretty flower beds.

It seemed that the homeless occupation of the plaza for more than two years had never taken place.

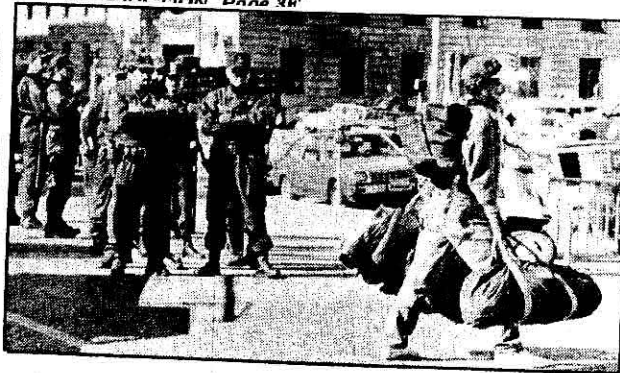
"I think this is very nice," said a broadly smiling Jack Richards, who moved to San Francisco from Ohio 20 years ago. "This is the way it used to be — without the conflict, the yelling, the screaming."

It was hard to believe that a few hours earlier police were ready to use force to remove the last remnants of the ragtag occupiers of one of San Francisco's showplace

sites.

Some of the homeless had lived under the trees in the plaza for years. Agnos, who had been under heavy pressure to restore the plaza to general public use, vowed months ago to find housing for the homeless whether they liked it or not.

One man was carried away in a stretcher.



Associated Press

MOVING ON — Police officers watch as Oscar, right, a homeless person, leaves Civic Center Plaza on Friday.

friendly approach," Police Capt. Frank Jordan told reporters recording the scene in the dawn's early light. The chief said city officials were directed to try for a "humane solution" to the homeless situation.

Judge asked to stop arrests

Five homeless people went to court Friday, asking a judge to order a stop to the arrests. The five claimed that the city law against camping in parks violates due process rights and that the arrests are cruel and unusual punishment because homeless people have nowhere else to go.

Superior Court Judge John Dearman refused without comment their request for a temporary

restraining order, but set a July 23 hearing ordering the city to explain why a preliminary injunction should not be issued.

So far as 25-year-old Dale Foris was concerned, life in the middle of San Francisco's seat of government was good enough for him

and his wife, Patricia. They moved to San Francisco from Chicago four years ago.

Camper claims liberty

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Forbis said. "That's what this country was all about. So why can't I pursue my happiness the way I choose, as long as I'm not bothering anyone?"

He said he has refused to take advantage of city's multi-service centers that opened this week. He said he and his wife like living in the streets, hinting that they planned to move to a neighborhood south of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Police provided a shuttle service with vans to move the homeless people and their belongings a few blocks to a big shelter at Polk and Geary streets.

A garbage bin was pulled up on the sidewalk for trash. Some of the transients took advantage of it, while others eyed the junk for what they could use.

Living a hard life often on the edge of violence, many of the homeless said they had formed strong friendships.

his sleeping bag. Homeless advocate Keith McHenry of the Food Not Bombs group was arrested and booked on a charge of interfering with police. Other charges included misdemeanor counts of illegal lodging and illegal distribution of food, police said.

Some of the hard-core homeless who refused to leave the plaza and ignored the Friday deadline called their home under the trees "Camp Agnos."

The plaza is bounded on the west by San Francisco City Hall, the north by the earthquake-damaged state office building, the south by the civic auditorium, and the east by the main San Francisco Public Library.

"It isn't fair," grumbled a man in his early 20s to police Capt. Dennis Martel as he was ousted. The officer wasn't impressed.

"You can't live here anymore," the policeman said. "I'm not going to debate it with you."

"Officers are using a low-key,

From Page 1

was no friction between police and the homeless."

Homeless advocates, however, complained of numerous reports of police confiscating residents' property. And some charged that there were not enough shelter beds to house all the park's residents. City social workers said they had plenty of beds available and if necessary would make more room in hotels.

Food Not Bombs, a homeless advocacy group that distributes food in the plaza, held a protest outside Mayor Art Agnos' Twin Peaks home last night.

The police sweep at 5 a.m. yesterday came much quicker than most had expected. Agnos, who since coming to office had allowed the homeless to camp in the park, ordered them out last week and gave them a Thursday deadline.

About 5:30 a.m., scores of police officers, patrol cars and paddy wagons descended on the plaza. By most accounts, the police were restrained, gently waking sleeping residents and telling them to move on. Most of them obliged.

Only one man, Christopher Stone, 40, was jailed for illegal lodging. Keith McHenry, head of Food Not Bombs, was arrested for obstructing police. Two others were arrested for outstanding warrants.

The rousting of the homeless ends a homeless encampment that began in 1987 and steadily grew in size over the past couple of years. By last week, an estimated 150 to 350 residents were sleeping in the plaza.

Agnos ordered the plaza cleared after opening a new homeless shelter at Fifth and Bryant streets and expanding existing services.

By week's end, more than 200 homeless people had asked for shelter, and they were sent to shelters, hotels and other programs.

Plaza Transformed From Campground to Park

By Marc Sandalow
Chronicle Staff Writer

San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza suddenly looked like a public park — instead of a disheveled campground — after an early morning police sweep of the homeless yesterday.

For the first time in nearly three years, children played in the grass, tourists ventured into the olive groves and old men sat

undisturbed on wooden benches across the street from City Hall.

"This is what parks are for," said 44-year-old Harrison Wooten, a frequent park lodger who moved out several days before the sweep. "The scene here was getting too rough. It was no good for children. Just look at it now."

The plaza's transformation followed a swift and peaceful sweep of the park by police, who removed 35 to 80 inhabitants. At least four men were arrested.

"It went very smoothly," said officer Mike Paulsen, one of a half dozen police officers who stood guard at the plaza hours after the sweep.

"The various city agencies really did their homework — they really did their job to find alternatives (for the park's residents). There

San Francisco Chronicle

SF Chron 7/7/90

Will the homeless be driven into the back alleys and gutters so tourists can take photos of a "pretty city?"

In each subsequent hearing as the outline of the police harassment juggernaut became sharper, Kelly doled out decision after decision favoring the prosecution. The law itself, he held, was constitutional and not overly broad, though it is a hodgepodge of petty traffic concerns and philosophical statements about the "quality of life." Though the D.A. had failed to specify which part of the law the defendants were supposedly violating, Kangaroo hopped in to patch up the prosecution case -- its costs to the taxpayers even then (mid-April) mounting into the thousands of dollars.

Omar the Magnificent and Grassroots Greg--two homeless men who happened by and expressed their outrage against the police attack January 26--were swept up in the police/prosecution net. Though largely uninvolved in the protest, their possessions were seized and they were forced to return to hearing after hearing as the judiciary took over the harassment job the police had begun. Charges were not dropped against Omar and Greg until May 15--making some wonder whether malice or straight stupidity ruled in Marigonda-land.

As the case proceeded, Kangaroo Kelly dutifully played his part, perhaps mindful of his former days in the D.A.'s office. The judge refused to order the prosecution to release evidence to the defense that might show a conspiracy between the D.A.'s office and the police dept. to set up a systematic pattern of harassment against the homeless. "Confidential work-product of the D.A.'s office," noted Kelly as he sealed off documents from public view--including the infamous D.A. Hit List (see below) (cont.)

Ruling Due Soon on Rights of 'Mobile Homeless'

Appellate court must rule whether shelter is a guaranteed 'right'

By Rachel Gordon

San Francisco's law prohibiting people from sleeping in their cars could be overturned by a state Court of Appeal within 90 days, if the tribunal rules that shelter is a fundamental right.

No other precedent-setting court in the nation has made such a ruling.

Attorney Sarge Holtzman, representing the plaintiff, Vehicular Residents Association, argued before the First District Court of Appeal May 9 that the local ordinance denies homeless people equal protection under the law

because they cannot sleep where people with enough money to afford housing can sleep.

For many of the homeless, he said, their cars, buses and vans are their only refuge, noting that San Francisco's emergency shelter system has too few beds to meet the demand.

"The alternative to living in a vehicle is to sleep on the street or in Civic Center Plaza," said Holtzman, whose clients sued Mayor Art Agnos two years ago for enforcing the law. Vehicles, he said, at least provide people with a little privacy, warmth and safety.

Deputy City Attorney Randy Riddle argued that the city has every right to enforce the law, which he said is an issue of health, safety and aesthetics.

"The city certainly believes the ordinance is a proper use of police power," Riddle said after the hearing.

The local ordinance bans people from sleeping, eating or resting in any parked vehicles in residential areas between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. People can use their vehicles for shelter in industrial areas during those hours, as long as the vehicles haven't been altered for use as sleeping or cooking quarters, for example by removing seats or installing wood-burning stoves.

Although the ordinance has been on the books for years, the controversy began Agnos' first full day in office, Jan. 8, 1988. That night, police officers informed vehicular dwellers that the city would begin enforcing the ordinance, which could result in fines and towing of the vehicles.



Ron Loar, foreground, sleeps in his Volkswagen bus, a practice he hopes the courts will rule legal.

Drawing the wrath of homeless advocates, Agnos placed a temporary moratorium on the law, drawing scores more vehicle dwellers to the city.

Agnos' move drew swift criticism from housed residents who

live in the areas that have a high concentration of vehicle dwellers, particularly in neighborhoods bordering Golden Gate and Buena Vista parks.

Critics complained that those who made their homes in vehicles defecated and urinated in doorways and parks, threw their garbage on the sidewalks and intimidated passers-by -- a scenario disputed by Don French, a spokesman for the Vehicle Dwellers Association who said opponents used those charges as a way to garner public sympathy for the police action.

Moved by neighbors' concerns, Agnos once again ordered enforcement of the ordinance, spurring the lawsuit.

Superior Court Judge Richard Figone upheld the law in December 1988.

If the Court of Appeal overturns his decision, the case most likely will be sent back to the lower court for rehearing, with emphasis put on consideration of a person's fundamental right to shelter.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that education and travel are fundamental rights -- not shelter.

While the law is being debated in the courtroom, out on the streets, the battle still rages.

Ron Loar, whose makeshift home of six months is an embattled

See Cars, page 7

- from SF Independent 5/90

cont. maybe next issue...

Informal agreements in late June did secure the release of some items taken in a few of the mid-Spring forays by the police armed with their "Public Nuisance" bludgeon. But City Houndmaster Jack Bassett refused to accept a compromise proposal made by Jay's attorney "Moxie" Margaret Marr. Bassett's prize pupil, Hennig descended on the Homeless Table to amass yet more homeless loot for the police lockers on July 5 with 4 more Nuisance charges [see story p. 4]. Marr urged that the homeless property taken in January should be released because it was illegally seized. Since there was no emergency and a demonstration was in progress, Hennig needed to get a warrant, Marr argued.

Some observers agreed that continuing to hold the property months later was harassment and irrelevant to any legitimate purpose. But would Kelly dare to tell the police officers to stop stealing homeless underwear and start dealing with rape and robbery?

Marr further argued that pictures were more than sufficient to decide whether the sidewalk was blocked, that the area had been cleaned up prior to the police arriving, and that the only goods there were the personal possessions of the demonstrators, who had nowhere else to put them. Additionally, she pointed out, the public display of homeless property was itself a form of free speech that demonstrated the utter inadequacy of locker facilities in town for the homeless. There was no evidence of any complaints, of public urination, of loud or offensive noise--no evidence of any crime whatsoever and no probable cause to believe any crime was being committed, Marr observed.

Marr to Kelly: "The police have come and seized the last and direly needed belongings of homeless people on more than ten occasions from this same site. There is only one rational interpretation of this policy and practice. And that is: to discourage these people from engaging in their political speech, speech that is vitally important and crucial to this community."

days, city and university police will increase enforcement of the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and park a community park with informal recreational facilities. The UC board of regents said last month that if the park is not cleaned up soon, the university will proceed with long-range plans to build a dormitory on the site.

Cleanup of Belongings:
As a first step, Eric Landes-Brennan, Berkeley's coordinator of efforts to deal with homeless people unveiled plans yesterday to get rid of the personal belongings that line the sidewalks and the east side of the park by providing 100 storage lockers subsidized by the city.

Beginning today, said Landes-Brennan, the city will provide vans to transport personal belongings such as mattresses, barbecues and carts to a commercial storage facility 10 blocks away. In three

Civic Center homeless on the move

SP Examiner

EXAMINER STAFF REPORT 7/10/90

Pushing shopping carts laden with their belongings, homeless people driven from a neat-as-a-pin Civic Center Plaza have begun to make themselves known in other neighborhoods.

A squad of police strolled through the mall all day Sunday, guarding the recently reclaimed civic landmark from the estimated 200 to 300 people who had called it home.

Civic Center has been clear of campers since 5:30 a.m. Friday, when social workers and police moved in to direct them to alternative shelters.

At least one of the perpetually displaced wasn't concerned by the crackdown.

"There are other places to sleep," said a man who gave his name only as Jake. "They haven't solved nothing."

Jake said he was headed for Market Street. Spending the night at one of Mayor Agnos' new city shelters was not for him, he said.

Police reported no arrests at the hotly contested Civic Center Sunday.

A Northern Station sergeant reported things quiet but said he had

already fielded complaints from perplexed homeowners who watched as the small army of people began to set up residence in the alleys and doorways in neighborhoods adjacent to Civic Center.

The homeless encampment in front of City Hall was regarded as a blight by many neighbors and business owners, but an eloquent placement of blame by activists fighting for homeless rights.

"on the move": Newspeak for "driven out."

3 Berkeley Churches Complain

They say People's Park denizens drift onto their properties.

By Debra Leri Holtz
Chronicle Correspondent

Representatives of three churches adjacent to People's Park in Berkeley complained bitterly to city and University of California officials yesterday about the damage to their properties caused by drifters who camp out in the neighborhood.

In a meeting at Berkeley City Hall, members of the First Church of Christ Scientist, the Vedanta Society and the American Baptist Seminary of the West said the problems of people dealing with their properties, openly dealing drugs, sleeping on the sidewalks and playing music late at night have become intolerable.

"You can walk through the campus and it can look like a garden but it smells like a sewer," said Gary Cooper of the American Baptist Seminary on Dwight Way.

Recent efforts by the university and the city to clean up People's Park have just pushed transients across the street to the churches, they said.

Aggressive Drifters

Joseph Landisman of the First Church of Christ Scientist at Dwight Way and Bowditch Street said that people climb on the roof of the church to sleep at night, breaking tiles and causing leaks, and they leave trash behind in the courtyard garden. A private security guard hired by the church three years ago has had little effect because the drifters are more aggressive than ever, he said.

"A couple of our church members have been accosted" leaving the building late at night, said Alma Gardner, president of the church's executive board. "We want to be tolerant, but we also want to be protected."

The problem has become so serious during the past year, said Landisman and Gardner, that church leaders are considering building a fence around the historic building, which was designed in 1910 by renowned architect Bernard Maybeck.

"Someone even suggested we build a cyclone fence with barbed wire on top to shock the university and the city," said Landisman.

Landisman and Gardner said building a fence would be a last resort because it would affect the architectural style of the church, which is a city landmark and a national historical site.

"We're hoping the city will do something so we won't have to build a fence," Gardner said. "It violates the whole concept of the church. A church should be open."

The city and the university

Quoting from the Supreme Court's *Edwards* case, Marr concluded "a function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its highest purpose when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger. Speech is often provocative and challenging. It may strike at prejudices and preconceptions and have profound unsettling effects as it presses for acceptance of an idea. This is why freedom of speech is protected from censorship and punishment."

Prosecution pointman Marigonda rose to defend holding a roomful of homeless property, musing that he might like to use it at trial. "Martial Law" championed Hennig's right to search anything "in public view" (watch your briefcases!). Labeling the anti-Sleeping ban vigil a "so-called protest," the mild-mannered myrmidon cautioned darkly that there was no time to get a search warrant and no need for one. Emergency warrantless searches were essential, emphasized the fanciful D.A. since sleeping bags, toothbrushes, and other "criminal evidence" could "disappear" at any time.

Critics watching muttered to each other that that was exactly what Hennig had been demanding be done. Others agreed that demonstrators, who had released a flyer "Public Nuisance or Public Menace?" and called the media were not about to flee the scene, and the whole argument was ridiculous. The issue of "disappearing evidence" was another legal red herring, served up to give Kangaroo Kelly a hook on which to hang the D.A.'s dirty laundry.

Kelly graciously took the opening. The ruling of the bench was chilling: It was okay for a Santa Cruz police sergeant to seize homeless property without a warrant. It was ok for the District Attorney's office to lock up such property for months and months. Throwing a bone to the defendants, and perhaps to the shreds of his conscience still remaining, the "just one of the boys" judge instructed the police to return the table, chair, and literature, and not take it in future. (cont.)

Washington Post

safe havens as winter approaches. Advocacy groups estimate that almost 5,000 people sleep in the subways each winter. The Transit Authority puts the figure at 2,000. But both acknowledge that Operation Enforcement has been more bark than bite.

"You'll see the same people back in the same places they used to be," Keith Summa of the Coalition for the Homeless said. "I get the feeling there's more public relations here than reality."

No Evictions in Cold Weather
Transit Authority officials acknowledge that they have a long-standing rule against evicting anyone from the subway if the temperature is below freezing.

"Naming it Operation Enforcement was probably a little bit more dramatic than it needed to be," transit police spokesman Albert O'Leary said. "We didn't expect to see dramatic results, and there haven't been dramatic results."

At Broadway and 96th Street recently, officers Kevin Heslin and Rocco Mancuso watched for pickpockets in a station free of homeless people and panhandlers. But the six closest stations were full of people sleeping in the platforms' dark recesses.

'You Can't Be Everywhere'
"One guy is supposed to watch four stations," Heslin said. "You can't be everywhere every day."

The Transit Police Benevolent Association asked the Transit Authority to call off the crack-down because it would mean "cops standing around playing social worker," union President William McKechnie said. "This is obviously a misplaced priority."

The controversy and the coming of winter have sharpened the debate about homelessness. "It's crazy," City Council member Miriam Friedlander said on a seasonable day when Tompkins Square Park in her Greenwich Village district was filled with more than its usual share of homeless people. "They shove them from one place to another."

Subways Safer

Advocates for the homeless say homeless people often prefer subways to large shelters, which they charge are havens for crime and violence. They say safer shelters run by nonprofit or religious organizations have long waiting lists.

"In the city shelters, you have to sleep with both eyes open," said Peter Smith, president of Partnership for the Homeless. "In the subways, you can at least close one eye."

New York
A man with smudged cheeks and bushy white whiskers, his head resting on a knapsack stuffed with underwear, was sprawled asleep on a bench at a Seventh Avenue subway station as commuters rushed past. Above the bench was a large poster announcing new subway rules, including "No Lying Down."

The man, who gave his name as Ted, was among seven people sleeping at the station, on a recent morning, a clear indication that the latest crackdown by the Transit Authority on "disruptive behavior" has produced more hype than help.

Operation Enforcement was launched late last month on a wave of news conferences, news-

On the lookout list: drinkers, panhandlers, litterers and sleepers

paper articles and Transit Authority brochures and posters adorned with a big logo of a police badge.

The publicity warned that transit officers would start issuing citations to panhandlers, litterers, people sleeping across seats and benches, riders with loud "boomboxes," musicians with amplifiers hawkers selling such items as \$2 umbrellas and bamboo calendars, and drinkers nursing bottles in paper bags.

Police Turned Their Backs

The 3,100 transit patrol officers had long turned their backs on such annoyances while backing more serious subway felonies, up 20 percent since last year.

But angry riders have forced the Transit Authority to do something about the large number of panhandlers, some of whom aggressively solicit money, and the disheveled, foul-smelling people who live in some stations.

The campaign was built on the belief that more people would ride the subways "if a sense of order and control were restored," transit spokesman Terrence Garden said.

'Operation Homeless'

Some advocates for the homeless charged that Operation Enforcement is a euphemism for "Operation Homeless," an inhumane scheme to sweep transients from some of the city's few warm and relatively

1/90
IF Chron →

25 (MUR-mi-don): One of those subordinates, or hirelings, who do anything and everything asked of them--but to such an unquenchable degree that their obedience becomes less an admirable show of loyalty than a staunchly mindless, pitiless, carrying out of orders. The myrmidon is a flunky, and an ardent frightening eager beaver of one. The clothes-snatching D.A. is also known as "Martial Law" Marigonda--see footnote #13, p. 17.

Kelly, ever the policeman's pal, also cast suspicion on the legitimacy of the 24-hour vigil (though no municipal law has ever barred it). The jolly judge accepted without proof that there was "a continuing encampment" at the Homeless Table without requiring any specific evidence of it, and then completely ignored and excluded evidence of an ongoing pattern of police harassment by taking homeless property. Instead of acknowledging that this proceeding was the just the latest in a series of legal and extralegal dodges to cover Bassett's Blanketsnatching, Kelly played deaf and dumb.

Was not Hennig's seizure of the Homeless Table itself and the literature on it a clear violation of the First Amendment? Ah, no, explained the judge. Hennig was simply "learning" correct procedures. How about holding property for 6 1/2 months? Prosecutorial discretion, concluded Kelly. But, don't worry, Kangaroo reassured the courtroom, table and literature were now safe; the homeless only had to worry about guarding their sleeping bags, survival gear, and personal property from the long arm of the police. Was the crime "blocking the sidewalk?...not having a locker?..." "protesting in the afternoon at a known Sleeping Ban vigil with a backpack by your side?" Who knows? It was just... "...Public Nuisance."

"Public Nuisance." A figleaf to conceal and legalize the relentless attack on the right of the poorest people to sleep at night? Another convenient hitherto-unknown weapon in the city-sponsored attack on homeless demonstrators? Another tool to enforce the Gang of 7's Sleeping Ban? When city-sponsored torture (as sleep deprivation is defined in the UN charter) becomes humdrum city policy, elaborately rationalized by lawyers in black robes, we are all in trouble.

Observers were still trying to grasp just what "crime" was being committed by Jay Green and Linda Edwards at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of January 26th. And whose ego, whose reputation, and whose interests were being served by the tens of thousands of dollars being spent on this case, and the half dozen other "Nuisance" cases rolling out of the downtown Misdemeanor Machine. Perhaps their crime was protesting a little too loudly and a little too long against a city government that preens itself on its progressive pomp and lashes out against those who reveal its soiled and stinking underwear.

The city and county continues its costly war against Green and Edwards August 17 in Dept. C. There the prosecution may seek to use the latest gut-and-gouge weapon handed it by Proposition 115--defendant discovery (where the victims have to reveal their defenses so they can be more effectively skewered by the government). Marr will file a motion to dismiss based on discriminatory prosecution since the county seems to be targeting homeless protesters and tables rather than other groups. Other grounds for the motion: simple violation of Jay's right to speak and petition. But some watching wondered when the well-intentioned attorneys struggling to catch the ear of Kangaroo Kelly would realize--the only rights these homeless defendants have, are those they seize and secure for themselves in the community and in the streets.

LATEST FLASHES....LATEST FLASHES....TAKE A PEEK....LATEST FLASHES

BASSETT'S \$300,000/YEAR MALL SQUAD RESUMES SLEEP-ARRESTS AT TABLE
4 COPS, 3 SQUAD CARS JAIL THREE SLEEPERS ON PHANTOM CHARGES

It was three nights after the Gang of 7's "we talk-you listen" City Council meeting when a statement of homeless concerns ratified by locals for the First Homeless Congress was received in stoney silence. Three nights since a vigil outside the Gang's lair remembered national homeless activist Mitch Snyder. Three nights after the Gang passed an empty media-oriented appropriation for "families and children" while spurning a recommended extension of the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program's vitally needed drop-in program that would give some homeless an alternative to becoming 11 PM sleepcriminals.

It was two nights after the chief law enforcement officer of the city publicly maligned homeless activists at a \$12/head chowdown for the local Chamber of Commerce at the Coconut Grove restaurant and moaned that his vital efforts to enforce homeless insomnia downtown were costing hundreds of thousands a year. And then blamed "50 bums downtown" for all his troubles.

It was two nights after Muni Court Judge Kangaroo Tom Kelly gave his blessing to do-as-we-please police seizures of homeless survival gear and empty harassment charges of Public Nuisance at the Homeless Table.

It was Friday the 13th. For the first time since June, armed "peace" officers arrived at the crack of dawn to roust and lead off in manacles three homeless demonstrators sleeping at the Table. Moonrise Mike Carreiro, "Many Miles" Mike Wilson from Santa Barbara, and "Abstract" P.G. were led through the ancient gauntlet of humiliation and incarceration for daring to lay out sleeping bags in the confines of Santa Cruz city.

The men were cited with violating 6.36.050: misdemeanor camping more than twice in 48 hours, a bogus charge that is used to rob folks of sleep, time, liberty, and dignity, but then reduced or dropped to an infraction [See footnote #5, p. 12]. The police did not mention that there was any complaint about the conduct of the men they took away.

Badlands Barbara, Bathrobespierre Robert, Blackbird Barb, Stormin' Norman, and Doeskin Dolores moved to take charge of the denuded Homeless Table, using the Sleepbuster Alert! phone chain to rouse grumbling supporters at 6 AM with the bad news. With only a handful of people sleeping regularly at the Table, some pessimisms wondered if the vigil would survive the increased police crackdown. Others, more hopeful, noted an upsurge of volunteers and support at the Keystone Cupboard "Legal Campground" Community meeting on Wednesday. Rumors were afoot that of the many City Council candidates due to announce next Monday, at least one was going to launch a tough campaign for homeless rights.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: Linda the Lark calls for Encampment Now! Street Tribunal and Copwatch: the First Chapter; Roughrider Ron! A Life and Death on the Streets; San Francisco: Organizing to Regain the Right to Sleep Safely; The Search for A Legalized Campground at Keystone's Cupboard Community; Who Was That Masked LawMan Who Gave Three Homeless Men Jobs July 12?!...Answers, Questions, Poems, and Stories all Coming in *Street Shit Sheet* #76!

The Homeless Crier

John O'Brien's S.F. Street newspaper pulls no punches, and is almost as hard to read as the Street Shit Sheet!

POLICE INTELLIGENCE

Recently some 50 different organizations as banded together to address the problem of abusive police, into the Alliance to Stop Abusive Police ASAP. The alliance as set up some 8 different working groups to address different aspects of the problem. One of these groups is the Police Intelligence working group. Also recently several internal documents of SFPD after years of litigation were made available to the ACLU. One of these documents is entitled Police Intelligence Guidelines, another is on the KKK. The document on the KKK is merely an listing of KKK actions around the country, with occasional mention of counter demos, but nothing in the accounts, per se, indicate the KKK is other than a political action group. The other document is so broad in scope and assumptions as to legalize virtually any form of thought police one wanted to authorize.

Simultaneously the Police Commission as established a committee charged with reviewing the existing policy and ops, with a view of proposing appropriate changes. Former Commissioner Jose Medina has played an important role in the establishment of this committee. Among the members of the committee are Mark VerMeulen of ASAP, John Crew of ACLU, Alan Wong of the Chinese YMCA and SF Community College Board, Mr. Lesse of Human Rights Commission, three members of the SFPD, and several others, including slots for reps from International Lawyers Guild and SF Bar Ass.

A 30 HOUR TOUR OF HOMELESSNESS

Mark Forrester and John O'Brien have been offering to take media representatives and public officials on a 30 hour tour of homelessness throughout San Francisco. To date no one has accepted the challenge. Why Not?

Are people afraid we might offer them a new insight? Or are they afraid we might challenge their faulty perceptions?

The challenge still stands!
JOHN O'BRIEN

AN SFPD/ABC COVERT INTELLIGENCE OPERATION

Currently, and for some considerable time, the ABC has been conducting covert intelligence operations throughout the state with the cooperation of some local police departments. While the Chronicle and Examiner have largely ignored this operation, one gratis newspaper has been reporting on it; the Bay Area Reporter. Children, some said to be off-spring of sworn police officers aged 14 to 17 years are recruited and trained to entrap vendors of alcoholic into violations of the alcohol control laws of California. Recruitment is done through the local agencies, which agencies apparently also participate in the training, as well as, participate in the operations.

The youngsters are sent into alcohol vending establishments, wherein there are previously placed undercover operatives of ABC, and, in our case, the SFPD, during which time the youngster attempts to purchase alcoholic beverages. If the youngster is sold an alcoholic beverage the sales agent, regardless whether, owner, bartender, waiter/ess or other employee is arrested on criminal charges. Conviction can be punished by fine through \$1000 and/or jail/prison term of 6 months. Beyond this the cost of competent counsel can be \$1000 per day, of grave concern to people earning a minimum wage, even with tips.

This covert intelligence operation violates state law in a number of ways:

1. The minor child in making the purchase commits a misdemeanor. Sec. 25698 B&P Code.
2. The agencies controlling the youngster commit a misdemeanor. Sec. 273.f of the Penal Code.
3. The youngsters' presence in some establishments is a misdemeanor. Sec. 25665 B&P Code.

Beyond these violations, some of which appear to rest on the youngsters, others of which rest solely on the law enforcement agencies, also may be violations of Child Welfare laws:

- a. Contributing to the delinquency of minors.
- b. Abuse of the child, It clearly is abusive of children to involve them in criminal violations of law.

S.C. Sentinel 6/15/91 6/15/91 SCS

Homeless plan July 4 SC protest

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Hundreds of homeless people and activists from up and down the state are expected to descend on Santa Cruz for a July 4 protest against the city's camping ban.

Deputy Police Chief Mike Dunbaugh said Thursday that he had been told that between 300 and 1,000 demonstrators were planning to attend the protest in front of City Hall. The protesters are expected to begin arriving July 3 and to leave on the fifth.

Dunbaugh said he was told that as many as 200 demonstrators may choose to be arrested.

Dunbaugh and Chief Jack Bassett met on Wednesday with city officials, including Councilman Don Lane, for an update on the planned protest.

Lane said Thursday he has met with organizers of the protest and that they appear to be serious about staging the demonstration. Lane said he worked with the organizers to keep the protest peaceful and that the group plans to get permits from the city. Lane also said he hoped the demonstration doesn't turn into a "confrontation-situation," which, he said, could cause "additional divisiveness and disruption in the community."

Lane said he also is concerned by the timing of the event, a concern shared by police. "The entire police department will be working that day due to the size of the crowds that traditionally come to town on the Fourth of July. We don't have extra people to call in for a demonstration. If we have to

it will be at the neglect of the rest of the city," Dunbaugh said.

He said he believes it is ironic that homeless activists have chosen Santa Cruz for their protest since, he said, the city is more responsive than most to the problem of homelessness.

Homeless activists disagree. Robert Norse said it was because of the city's prohibition against sleeping outdoors that the statewide demonstration will be held here. He said protesters would come from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area and Sonoma.

"We've been camping out in front of our city hall for three months because of a sleeping ordinance. We plan to go up there to help Santa Cruz, because they seem to be in even more dire straights," said Colin Atherton of the Santa Barbara Homeless Coalition.

Atherton said Santa Barbara allows sleeping on city sidewalks, but not in parks, which are closed to the public at night.

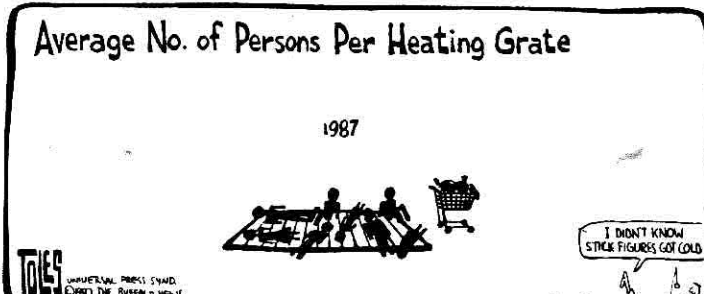
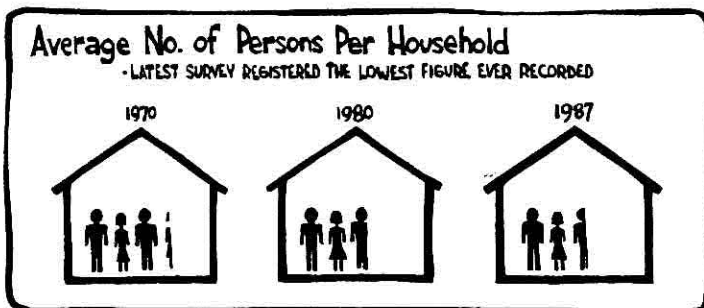
The Santa Cruz camping ban prohibits sleeping in all public places and in cars and vans.

Local homeless activists have protested the camping ban for more than a year at City Council meetings and in demonstrations in front of the Town Clock. The council has refused to budge on its position. Recently, the council voted to limit the amount of time it devotes to "oral communications" from the public at its meeting to 30 minutes. Some of the previous meetings had been disrupted for more than an hour by Norse and his fellow protesters.

a poem from Berkeley's
Julia Vinograd

STREETPEOPLE IN A RAINSTORM

6 layers of soggy clothes
sprout booze, death and laughter.
Hair water-spiked, water-clotted
as if the rain were blood.
Fingerprints melt. Eyes wash out.
Eyesockets wait for plug-in hot flashes.
Lips sponge cold over kisses.
A plastic toadstool tent of a person
with delicate bones sticking out at the wrist
like an Indian brave's bracelet
of owl feathers.
Backed against an overhang.
Staring at the oncoming armies of drip.
The fake madman's face flecks with drool.
The real madman's face flecks with rust.
Or the other way around.
They usually work opposite ends of the street
but it's raining.
Everyone huddles together
and doesn't get warm.
Mold grows on bad music
trying to shake off the shivers.
Wet socks suck at toes like teething gold fish.
Moss climbs the north side of the mind.
People inside the warm and dry
are either having their coffee on the moon,
or they're just pictures painted on the windows.
Only the rain is real.



GEORGE SOLIS: AN AFTERWORD ON JULY 4TH

(George is a tireless worker with the Sonoma Union of the Homeless, whose around-the-clock efforts brought many of the Northern California folks to the First Homeless Independence Day in Santa Cruz.)

7/9/90

Dear Friends of Santa Cruz:

Thank you so much for letting me be a part of this effort to bring justice for all in Santa Cruz. We were a living presence of compassion for others, an assertion of ourselves, and an example of the calm persistence that brings the most lasting change.

I gladly admit that we were outnumbered at least 2 to 1 by those opposed to the poor and homeless. We took a census of hate in America and hate won. This may be an accurate count of feelings in America today. We should feel a great sense of pride that we did not join in on this hate, but instead maintained a dignity that any class of people would respect.

I am proud to have been with you.

Several days before the rally I had called Mitch Snyder to discuss Santa Cruz. When I told him about the planned counter-demonstration, he said, "Wonderful. That's so helpful." Many times I called Mitch when I had questions about strategy or about a decision, and he did make good decisions. On hearing of his death, I had to respect his last decision.

Mitch's problem was probably optimism. He had this great faith that if only evil were to be exposed, humanity would rise up and stamp it out. Buy that isn't so. I'm sure it injured (but never killed) his faith in justice to see that people would actually rally against the poor and homeless. He made his fight in the belly of the beast and it consumed him like it has consumed so many other optimists.

So evil does win some of the battles, but with faith--and optimism--none of the wars. "Housing Now!!!"

---George Solis
Sonoma County Homeless Union

Editor's Note: The heavy turnout for the Busenhart "hang 'em high" rally on the 4th happened for a number of reasons. Busenhart's bunch had ample financial backing which the homeless rally did not--quarter-page newspaper ads for several days before the demo. The homeless rally on the other hand suffered from slanted media coverage--the *Santa Cruz Urinal* actually editorially endorsed the counter-rally. Busenhart's group got facilities and resources from the reactionary leadership in the local Plumber's Union.

And, of course, many local "progressives" loyal to the Wormhoudt-Laird coterie downtown, refused to support or attend the rally. CAB, under the leadership of Paul Brindel and Christine Johnson-Lyons, refused to allow their Handsnet computer--established with homeless funding to publicize the event; Brindel is locally infamous for setting the police on the first public

homeless encampment in the fall of 1988 and pursuing court action against sit-in demonstrators at the closed-in-the-dead-of-winter River St. shelter annex in the summer of 1989. To be fair, it must be added, Brindel served as an observer on the 4th and even slept--at a distance in his vehicle--from the demonstrators on the night of the 4th and morning of the 5th.

Her rally on the 4th was short and strident and filled with false information that produced a lot of heat briefly. Some of her concerns about wasted social service money, we actually share (bucks go to buildings and bureaucrats and not to folks who need services). But at the next City Council meeting (July 10), only three of her "red-shirts" were there--next to the dozens of homeless supporters. And two of those three actually supported the homeless demand for a legalized campground. So what's all the shouting about?

Busenhart's disinformation campaign may have actually be about something else entirely. The "hidden political agenda" that she accused "homelessness activists" of having may have actually been her own. Having lured lots of misinformed, anxious, and angry people to her rally, Busenhart gathered a list of signatures and phone numbers, ostensibly to urge a ridiculous and unenforceable automatic-jail-for-sleeping law. Absurdly punitive, the law wouldn't be able to pass the Fuhrer's desk in Nazi Germany: it would finish off the crowded court system, swamp the jail, bankrupt taxpayers, and probably stir up the homeless to outright rebellion.

And now she can pursue what may have been her real agenda all along: fighting a new city tax for social services. Tsk, tsk, Carolyn. Shame on you for your devious ways.

Most people need more time in land of nod, experts say

*come on, S.C. Politre!
sleep...
and
Let Sleep!*

By Natalie Angier
New York Times

Experts in sleep behavior and sleep disorders have found that a majority of people are sleeping at least an hour to 90 minutes less each night than they should.

That discovery may not surprise hard-driving workers who scorn the call to relax, but sleep researchers say that even those level-headed people who think they put in a reasonable stint in bed each night probably suffer from some degree of sleep deprivation.

"People cheat on their sleep, and they don't even realize they're doing it," said Dr. Howard P. Roffwarg, director of the Sleep Study Unit at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. "They think they're OK because they can get by on 6 1/2 hours, when they really need 7 1/2, eight or even more to feel ideally vigorous."

Basing their conclusions on recent surveys, experiments at sleep disorder clinics, trends in the labor force toward shift work and night work and the swelling number of Americans who suffer from sleep pathologies and chronic fatigue, sleep scientists insist that there is a virtual epidemic of sleepiness in the nation.

"I can't think of a single study that hasn't found people getting less sleep than they ought to," said Dr. David F. Dinges, a biological psychologist at the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital in

'People cheat on their sleep, and they don't even realize they're doing it.'

— Dr. Howard P. Roffwarg,
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical School

So apparent are the potential hazards of chronic sleep deprivation that Congress, as part of an omnibus health bill passed in 1988, asked a panel of a dozen sleep scientists to conduct a comprehensive study of the subject, to be completed by mid-1991.

In a new analysis of several health surveys of 21,000 people 65 and older, the National Institute on Aging found that more than 50 percent reported sleeping badly and feeling poorly rested upon waking.

If applied to the older population as a whole, said Dr. Andrew Monjan, a sleep researcher at the institute, at least 13 million Americans are aware enough of their chronic sleep deficiency to cite it as

More revealing of the problem of hidden sleep deprivation is a series of studies of several hundred college and graduate students between the ages of 18 and 30, conducted over the past several years at Stanford University, Brown University and the Henry Ford Hospital.

In one representative experiment with young adults who were generally healthy and got an average of seven to eight hours sleep a night, sleep researchers discovered that 20 percent of these apparently normal students could fall asleep almost instantaneously throughout the day if allowed to lie down in a darkened room.

That sleep pattern matched ones exhibited by narcoleptics and others suffering from clinical sleep pathologies — evidence, the researchers said, that the students, despite having had what most would consider a perfectly reasonable amount of sleep, were nevertheless sleep-deprived.

The researchers further discovered that even students who seemed alert and did not quickly fall asleep under test conditions could benefit from more sleep.

If they spent one week getting to bed an hour to 90 minutes earlier than usual, the students improved their performance markedly on psychological and cognitive tests.

To sleep researchers, such results strongly suggest that most, if not all, people who think they are sleeping enough would be better off with an extra

*S/16/90
News
Mercury
Jose*

Sgt. Hennig to the mall merchants:

ACTUAL MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Block Captain Program

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

BLOCK CAPTAINS: Thursday, June 27; 8:30 a.m.; DTA Board Room.
Agenda: Fees Revisions; Block Captain Ideas.

PAVILION CAPTAINS: Thursday, June 14; 8:30 a.m.; India Joze.

FARMERS MARKET: Wednesday, June 6, 3 p.m.-7 p.m., Cathcart & Pacific.
 Opening Day for summer-long weekly Downtown Market.

WARMTH: Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Food Pavilion D.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BLOCK CAPTAINS MEETING, MAY 24, 1990

The meeting was chaired by Joe Ferrara/Atlantis Fantasyworld. Also attending: West Walker/Entertainment West; Tom Jackson/Jacksons Shoes 'n Things; John Blake/Poor Richard's Almanac; Robert Hook/Plaza Books; Carol Barnes/Western Visions; Mickey Rebecchi/Longs; Fred Zannotto/Zannotto's Deluxe; Priscilla Ma/Caffe Pergolesi; Judith Broadhurst/Kuumbwa Jazz Center; Jan Mangan/Cotton Tales; Bob Hennig/SCPD; Diane Winalow/Arlean's Cooperative; Elaine Norman/Founders Title; AC Smith/bento baki; Kurt Haveman/Mr. Goodies; Tegan Speiser/SC Community Credit Union; Sandra Bartle/Shandryan; Richard Bayer/SC Nutrition; Corinne Farmer/JTPA.

The agenda included: police department update; recycling; parking; Block Captain distribution feedback; Downtown Farmers Market coupons; fee revisions agreements; proposed Block Captain support for Phoenix Project.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Sergeant Bob Hennig from SCPD spoke to the Captains regarding Downtown loitering around shops and the Post Office, as well as addressing individual merchant concerns around persistent graffiti, night safety, and vagrancy.

Hennig reported that early summer will bring an increase of street people to Downtown due to area Grateful Dead concerts. SCPD will control crowding and stop property abuse and littering through cattle herding to discourage loiterers. There are no SC loitering nor vagrancy ordinances, so SCPD issues panhandling and littering citations as deterrents. Most offenders are issued tickets rather than being jailed. Individual merchants were advised that they can press trespassing charges on personal property, and can contact police about disturbances that disrupt business. Impeding free and easy entrance or blocking sidewalks with refusal to leave are offenses that may warrant police intervention. Concerned citizens are encouraged to contact Sgt. Bob Hennig to register complaints, 429-3724.

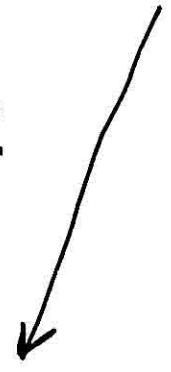
SCPD action regarding the people camped out at the post office has been based on Public Nuisance Codes. Police have abated the homeless table five times. There has been no trial yet, though one is expected within 1-2 months. Its outcome will determine future police action. Any complaints about the post office situation should be directed to Hennig. Written complaints are encouraged. There are 500 registered complaints, 50 in writing, and additional feedback is needed.

More longterm solutions to related problems may come through changes in City ordinances. Time, Place & Manner codes may regulate which activities are allowable in specified areas. Meanwhile, businesses can make physical changes favoring flower boxes over benches, installing leped brick rather than smooth seating surface to discourage loitering. In addition, Hennig assured Captains that police enforcement will be up this summer.

DTA Governmental Affairs is investigating privatization in SC whereby private ownership of present City property, leasing sidewalk and parking lot areas, would expand owner privileges, though owners would then be responsible for property maintenance. The Committee sees this as a crucial time to prioritize, keep the issue alive and find concrete solutions, dealing with this problem within the community with political energy.

Tegan Speiser brought forward Front Street problems of continual riverside graffiti and night safety at Kinkos 24-hour location. Recommendations by neighboring Fred Zannotto and Mickey Rebecchi to fence off access to buildings led to a proposed meeting between the 3 to find specific solutions for SC Community Credit Union location. A Block meeting in the area to discuss options was also suggested. Hennig will arrange for more frequent check-ins at Kinkos, and may step up night patrol behind buildings.

Bassett + Hennig's "solution" to the "mall problem": jettison basic right and treat 'undesirables' like cattle!



Bassett's plan for a "Kinder gentler mall."

more fences, less benches!

get ready to (move) and move on... Here comes Hennig! Lamleherder Hennig!

End free speech?! → make money requirement?

Santa Cruz or Carmel North?

SF homeless object to being rousted

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) - One day before a planned police crackdown on campers, scores of homeless people living in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza prepared Wednesday to move on, while others vowed to stay and risk arrest.

Members of a homeless camp-out protest said they planned to remain living in the shadows of City Hall when police start enforcing laws against park sleeping at 6 p.m. Thursday.

"I call it standing up for what I believe in," said a woman named Jake Howard, who said she had been homeless since the October earthquake.

"They'll call it being a nuisance," answered Michael Harvi, a formerly homeless activist who also planned to stay on the plaza.

The homeless camp in Civic Center Plaza has become a political eyesore for Mayor Art Agnos, whose office balcony overlooks the plaza.

Many city residents and merchants have complained bitterly about the camp, but until recently Agnos refused to order the homeless out because of a shortage of shelter space. With the opening of two new city shelters, the mayor finally ordered a sweep of the plaza.

Harvi and two friends with whom he now shares an apartment said they returned to the plaza to support friends facing eviction. "We're family," said Howard.

Harvi and Howard said they planned to burn San Francisco Agnos in effigy Wednesday evening at 8:30. They also planned to join others in a sleep-out protest outside Agnos' home on Friday.

Not far away, a man who gave his name as Alfredo stood peeling a cucumber for lunch with a sturdy clasp knife and listening to Spanish-language commentary on a World Cup game. He said he and four friends had camped in

the plaza for a year but would before the police came.

"Maybe tonight is the last night," Alfredo said. He said he did not want to move to one of two new city shelters because he said they kept residents indoors from 7 p.m. until morning.

Alfredo said he was seeking work as a painter. "I'm no professional-professional, but I'm almost professional," he said.

Hugo, one campsite away, said he had accepted lodgings in the new city service center at Fifth and Bryant streets. A friend, Emedio, seemed surprised at being asked whether the shelter would be an improvement on the plaza.

"It is not better," he said of the plaza. "All night, sometimes windy, sometimes raining, sometimes we have no cover."

BUT THERE ISN'T SPACE IN THE SHELTERS!

-Thanks anyway,

Most Americans Need More Sleep

People would be more productive

and happier, experts say

By Natalie Angler
New York Times

New York

Experts in sleep behavior and sleep disorders have found that a majority of people are sleeping at least an hour to 90 minutes less each night than they should.

"People cheat on their sleep, and they don't even realize they're doing it," said Dr. Howard P. Roffwarg, director of the Sleep Study Unit at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. "They think they're OK because they can get by on 6 1/2 hours, when they really need 7 1/2, eight or

even more to feel clearly vigorous."

Based on their conclusions on recent surveys, experiments at sleep disorder clinics, trends in the labor force toward shift work, and night work and the swelling number of Americans who suffer from sleep pathologies and chronic fatigue, sleep scientists say there is virtually an epidemic of sleeplessness in the nation.

"I can't think of a single study that hasn't found people getting less sleep than they ought to," said Dr. David F. Dinges, a biological psychologist at the Institute of

SF Chronicle; May 15, 1990; A1

5/18/90

Keep the new mall friendly SC Sentinel

I was appalled to read of the recent recommendations to Vision Santa Cruz regarding so-called "street people."

Reduce or eliminate benches and greenery? Privatized sidewalk space? Uniform closing hours? Increased police presence? It sounds like the answer is to make the environment such that no one will want to be there.

I am one of those productive, civic-minded types that some people are so concerned about protecting, lest I might not want to spend my money on the mall anymore. Prior to the earthquake, I went to the mall virtually every day. Whether there for an early morning cup of coffee or a midnight crepe, I never felt intimidated or threatened.

Since I spent so much time there, I think I encountered all the same people everyone is screaming about. Sure, I've been panhandled — but I know how to say yes and I know how to say no when I want to. I don't need anyone "protecting" me. As for the general environment — the benches the shrubs and the few open-late establishments have always made the mall feel safe and homey.

I think the media, the police and some shop owners have blown the entire "street person" issue into something much larger than it is. We already have laws against public drunkenness, against drug dealing, against urinating in public (how about more public-access bathrooms? We've all been caught in that jam more than once). Truly homeless, undesirables, deserving/undeserving — What purpose do such terms serve? It's not the city's role to enable the bigotry and paranoia of some by harassing and controlling certain groups of people. Let's deal with specific behaviors and not target groups of people.

Diversity is part of what makes Santa Cruz click. The day we sell our souls for investment and tourist dollars is the day we lose this community as our home.

Shelly D'Amour
Santa Cruz

City Council closing street access

The public should take notice of the latest example of fraud and deceit by our so-called progressive city government. This council, which constantly tries to convince us that it favors both protecting the environment and supports better access for the disabled, has, in fact, been making it increasingly difficult for pedestrians, bicyclists and the handicapped to get around in this town. Without any public discussion that I'm aware of, the city has allowed Longs Drug and Zanotto's Market to close off the alley between their buildings downtown. In addition, the city has allowed the fencing off of the north end of Jessie Street and currently is giving serious consideration

to proposals to close off Pearl Alley and to privatize Pacific Avenue.

If the members of this council were sincere in their rhetoric, they would be working to protect and augment the public's prescriptive rights to these easements. Instead, blinded by their insane hatred for street people, council members have repeatedly engaged in a policy of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. To prevent the horror of some poor person finding a free meal in a dumpster, the city has opted to make it more difficult for all of us to get around.

The city, of course, is doing this at the behest of a handful of business and property owners and it is on this group that pressure must be applied to reverse this trend. I'm no longer going to patronize businesses such as Longs and Zanotto's which make my getting to them difficult.

Daniel Murphy
Santa Cruz

S.C. SPAN/90
5/21/90

SCPD will control crowding and stop property abuse and littering through cattle herding to disperse
SCPD will control crowding and stop property abuse

physical changes favoring flower boxes over benches,

installing jagged brick rather than smooth seating

There are no SC loitering nor vagrancy ordinances

, so SCPD issues panhandling and littering

citations as deterrents.

Americans More Sleep

ditions could benefit from more sleep.

If they spent one week getting to bed an hour to 90 minutes earlier than usual, the students improved their performance markedly on psychological and cognitive tests.

Constant Fatigue

Researchers also point out that ever more people are consulting sleep experts and sleep disorder clinics complaining of constant fatigue.

Today there are more than 140 accredited sleep disorder centers in the United States, compared with 25 in 1980.

About 1,200 clinicians are members of the American Sleep Disorders Association, a professional organization, up from 710 in 1986.

Researchers trace the beginning of the sleep-deficit crisis to the invention of the light bulb a century ago.

From diary entries and other personal accounts from the 18th and 19th centuries, sleep scientists have determined that the average person used to sleep about 9 1/2 hours a night.

"The best sleep habits once were forced on us, when we had nothing to do in the evening down on the farm, and it was dark," said Roffwarg.

Complex Beds

Perhaps the most relentless robber of sleep, researchers say, is the complexity of the day. When pressures from work, family, friends, the community and the health club mount, many people consider sleep to be the most expendable item on the agenda.

"In our society, it's considered dynamic; a feather in one's cap, to say you only need 5 1/2 hours' sleep," said Dr. Neil B. Cavey, director of the Sleep Disorders Center at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. "If you say you've got to get 8 1/2 hours, people look at you askance, as though you lack drive and ambition."

Whatever the root of a person's sleep deficit, sleep scientists have devised tests to assess its extent and consequences. Researchers agree that the most accurate measurement of relative sleep deprivation is the Multiple Sleep Latency Test, devised by Dr. William Dement, director of the Stanford Sleep Disorders Center, along with Dr. Mary Carskadon, a sleep re-

Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia

Experts say that mild sleep deprivation is not terribly worrisome, although they believe people would be more productive and satisfied if they were able to get a complement of sleep each night.

But when sleep deprivation comes chronic and extensive, say, it can have serious consequences, leading to gravely impaired judgment and an increase in automobile and industrial accidents.

So apparent are the pote-

From Page A1

hazards of chronic sleep deprivation that Congress, as part of an omnibus health bill passed in 1988, has asked a dozen sleep scientists to conduct a comprehensive study of the subject, to be completed by mid-1991.

The commission will attempt to gauge the economic and medical effect of sleep disorders and sleep deprivation and suggest ways that the government might help ease worker fatigue.

There has yet to be a large-scale epidemiological study of the nation's sleep habits. But sleep researchers have gathered insights about sleep deprivation by studying defined groups.

In a new analysis of several health surveys of 21,000 people 65 and older, the National Institute on Aging found that more than 50 percent reported sleeping badly and feeling poorly rested upon waking.

If applied to the older population as a whole, said Dr. Andrew Monjan, a sleep researcher at the institute, at least 13 million Americans are aware enough of their chronic sleep deficiency to cite it as a source of misery.

Hidden Deprivation

More revealing of the problem of hidden sleep deprivation is a series of studies of several hundred college and graduate students between the ages of 18 and 30, conducted during the past several years at Stanford University, Brown University and the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

In one representative experiment with the young adults, who were generally healthy and got an average of seven to eight hours' sleep a night, sleep researchers discovered that 20 percent of these apparently normal students could fall asleep almost instantaneously throughout the day if allowed to lie down in a darkened room.

That sleep pattern matched signs exhibited by narcoleptics and others suffering from clinical sleep pathologies — evidence, the researchers said, that the students, despite having had what most would consider to be a perfectly reasonable amount of sleep, were nevertheless sleep-deprived.

The sleep researchers further discovered that even the students who seemed to be alert and did not quickly fall asleep under test con-

"Contempt proceedings are public," cautioned Grunewald, "the court is still in session." Eric fingered his authority for a moment, but then reluctantly let the two stay to watch the thin-skinned judge further lecture the anguished man. As they left the courtroom, 2 out of 3 spectators had to agree that Sleep-squelcher Mulligan had done it again--and maintained his unofficial but fearsome record for the number of victims held and quietly tortured for "contempt of court."

@@@@@.....PARKER TIRES OF JAIL, PLEADS TO BUM RAP...."Judge Me Not" Joe Parker, after eleven days in jail for repeated "sleepcrime" faced a battery charge against Sgt. "Don't Fuck With Me" St. Onge in Muni Court B., presided over by Judge "Artichoke-Heart" Attack.^{1a} St. Onge himself privately admitted throwing the activist into a lamppost, though he denied starting the altercation. Jabberwocky Jay, a close eye-witness to the proceedings, endorsed Joe's account that St. Onge began the fray by contemptuously kicking a box in Joe's direction, which Joe then kicked back. Joe and Jabberwocky both agreed that St. Onge made a punitive bust because of Joe's unsubmitive attitude. The sergeant, they charge, then covered his own attack on Joe by charging "battery."

Coming from nearly two weeks of jail, Joe then got the bad news from Attack that he would be held in jail until trial, denied release on his own recognizance. Stir-crazy from the celltime, Joe pled no contest, and got a year's probation during which he agreed not to "sleep illegally," be caught with an "open container," or provoke St. Onge into jumping him again. A tall number for Joe whose allergy to courtrooms and jails is legendary--in a town where every siesta after dark is a criminal offense for the homeless. Some observers are gloomily predicting that Joe will be the first "sleep prisoner" jailed for 6 months to 1 year for "violating probation" by falling asleep at the Homeless Table^{16a}.

16 See footnote 16, p. 20.

16a Editor's note to the 3rd Edition (7/23): Joe was arrested July 14 and began serving a sentence of over 40 days--the overwhelming majority of it for sleeping in Santa Cruz. For details see "Homeless Table goes on Vacation" flyer. He is scheduled to appear in court on 5 more sleeping warrants July 29.

Arrest made in shooting of S.F. homeless man

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Police arrested a man wanted for investigation of murder in Washington state after he allegedly pulled a gun on four homeless people Friday and shot one of them.

William DeWitt, 38, sought on a \$500,000 warrant in Seattle for the slaying of a man last week, was drinking beer in a bar a few minutes after the shooting in San Francisco's Tenderloin District when police arrested him, said Inspector Ken King.

King said witnesses told police that DeWitt walked up to a group

of four homeless people sitting on the street and pulled out a gun. DeWitt then allegedly pointed the gun at the men, told them "I could kill all of you," and walked away. The men followed DeWitt, who then turned around and shot one of them, King said.

DeWitt then allegedly pointed the gun, a .25-caliber automatic, at another of the men, and pulled the trigger, but the gun jammed and DeWitt fled, witnesses told police.

The wounded man, Roy Gonzales, 37, underwent surgery at San Francisco General Hospital for a wound to his chest, a nursing

supervisor said. He was in stable condition.

DeWitt carried papers with different identities and home addresses in Portland, Ore., and Bellevue, Wash., King said. DeWitt also was carrying a security officer badge that looked like a Los Angeles Police Department badge.

He was arrested on charges of attempted murder, assault with deadly weapon and several misdemeanor gun charges.

DeWitt is wanted in Seattle in connection with the killing of Mickey Miles, 30, on April 20 over a dispute about money, said Marjorie Amundson, Seattle police information officer.

Thanks for limiting disruptions

I would like to congratulate the City Council for limiting Robert Morse and his band of disruptive huns at city meetings.

This is a critical time in Santa Cruz. With all there is to be done, aggressive group behavior is total nonsense. Can you imagine what this city would be like without a camping ban? If in doubt, just check the Front Street post office.

Kay Geiger
Santa Cruz

516190
SC Sentinel

From p. 7.

from p. 27c

BILL
MANDEL

From p. 9

Psychologist begs for better times after trying life as a panhandler

Los Angeles psychologist Robert Butterworth took to the streets to learn more about how passers-by react to the upturned palm of a panhandler. As he tells Los Angeles Times staff writer David Haldane, he was surprised by what he found in his brief life as a bum.

LOS ANGELES — I made one serious error during my first day as a beggar on the streets of Los Angeles.

"Gotta nickel?" I self-consciously asked a well-dressed passer-by.

"Sell your ring!" she scoffed, then marched off. I glanced at my left hand: I had forgotten to remove the \$1,000 diamond ring I'd worn for years.

There it was, proclaiming loudly to the world that I was an intruder on alien ground. Feeling foolish, I quickly pulled it off my finger and placed it in a back pocket.

Then, bending my head slightly to assume a look of humility, I forced myself to continue my new-found avocation.

"Gotta nickel?"

I'm not really a beggar. I'm a psychologist. But I've always had a professional interest in people who live, by fortune or design, at the edge of society. I became interested in beggars, in particular, because one man I pass on the way to the post office every morning made me angry. He would just ask for a nickel or a quarter without bothering anybody. I never gave him any money.

I began noticing, however, that rather than ignore him, I was increasingly reacting with hostility. Where did he get off living this easy life and expecting the rest of us to support him with our hard work and lives full of schedules? Just who did this guy think he was?

I decided to do a research project to find out how people in Los Angeles react to beggars. For seven days, I walked the streets of the city posing as a bum and asking for spare change.

I tried panhandling because I wanted to know more about the moment of proffering: How, when confronted by a stranger asking for money, do most people react? Do they give or not? Do they acknowledge the beggar's presence or look away, pretending he or she doesn't exist? Do they become angry, heckling, insulting or threatening? Or do they just mind their own business, refusing to allow the intruder into their insulated worlds?

To make the project more scientific, I divided the city into seven demographic regions. I wanted to compare the reactions and behavior of the various groups that make up the city's population. I also charted results according to race, sex and age.

What I ultimately discovered surprised me: Most people in Los Angeles aren't that unkind to beggars, some, in fact, are nice to them. And while begging in the streets is tedious work and certainly is no way to earn even a poverty wage, people tend to interact with beggars on a human level.

Before I could find that out, of course, I had to transform myself into someone who looked like a beggar, a process that turned out to be much more difficult than I had imagined.

I began by letting my beard grow for several days. I messed up my hair and, using my wife's hair spray, lightened it to look somewhat older than my 43 years.

Makeup proved useful. For days on the street, I used it to darken my stubble for a more pronounced, dirty look. And on work days, when I had to meet with patients (I still had to make a living through all of this), I used it to lighten the stubble so it barely showed.

I lived in dread of being recognized as a bum by one of my clients. Or worse, of running into friends and associates while begging.

After the first-day fiasco over the diamond ring, my days on the sidewalk settled into a fairly predictable routine.

"Gotta nickel?" I'd say with my head slightly bowed and hand out.

Or, "I need some money. . . ." Those who ignored or heckled me, I'd let walk right on by. But when somebody offered money, I'd immediately return it, tell them who I was, and try to interview them on the spot.

The results were astounding: Of the 1,465 people I asked for money, only 53 — about one every 15 minutes, or 4 percent of those approached — actually gave me anything.

But even those who didn't, generally acknowledged my existence in some way. About 70 percent shook their heads and said, "No, I'm sorry," "Not today" or "I don't have any change."

I was making less than minimum wage, but because people were being polite to me, I wasn't feeling rejected.

There were exceptions, of course.

One guy, responding to my "Gotta nickel?" smirked "got change for a hundred?" and kept walking. I felt like crawling under a rock. His taunting dismissal made me feel like a snail.

Another pedestrian leashed into an angry tirade about panhandlers' laziness, insisting that "85 percent of the people out here need to find jobs." It was difficult to refrain from silencing him through humiliation by explaining just how wrong he was in my case. It made me angry to realize that someone would make such assumptions without knowing anything about me.

The passers-by who were the most abusive tended to be teen-age boys. On the other end of the spectrum, interestingly, white males, ages 30 to 35, were the most likely to give money.

And somewhere in the middle were women of all races older than 40, who generally ignored my pleas entirely.

I encountered the police only once.

"You can't stand here," a sheriff's deputy told me in Hollywood one Saturday night near a heavy-metal rock club. A bolt of fear flashed through me, but he didn't seem to notice. "You've got to always be in motion," he said calmly.

So I kept on moving, always moving. As the days dragged on, the boundaries between my two selves gradually began to blur. Slowly, I took on the physical characteristics of a beggar. I began to walk like a bum, leaning forward with sort of a purposeful aimlessness. I found myself feeling kind of free out on the streets. I figured I was a bum so I could do anything I wanted.

But eventually the elation turned to depression. There were times when I just didn't want to do it anymore and had to force myself out the door in the morning. I found myself counting the days until I'd have enough data to quit.

So what did I learn from the exercise? For one thing, I learned that being a beggar is damned hard work — mentally and physically.

It's psychologically tough work because you have to stand there hour after hour, maintaining an attitude of engaged humility, risking (and sometimes experiencing) rejection at every turn. That is emotionally draining, and spiritually demeaning.

Begging is demanding physically because some of the basic biological functions the rest of us take for granted can be major ordeals for panhandlers. This was brought home to me the first time I needed to use the bathroom while on the "job."

Following my usual procedure, I walked into a restaurant and asked to use the facilities. Nothing doing. I was firmly informed. Thereafter, I made sure I went to the bathroom before leaving home or panhandled near a McDonald's. I now understand, however, why the streets of Los Angeles are as soaked with urine as they are.

Time to pay for the folly of the Eighties

from p. 2

Council rejects shelter request

6/13/90
By MARK BERGSTROM SC
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — The City Council let it be known Tuesday that it is not interested in providing emergency shelter this summer for any one other than families.

The issue arose when Councilman Don Lane brought forth a request from the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program for funding to continue providing shelter for the homeless this summer.

The Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program has operated for several winters, providing overnight facilities in a number of churches. That program traditionally ends at the end of April.

Because of a larger-than-ever number of homeless this year, the program decided to offer at least 15 beds through the summer, according to Director Andrew Morin.

At the end of the winter 1989 program, 20 people were staying in the church shelters, he told the council. At the end of this this winter, he said, more than 100 people were using the program.

But, Morin said, it quickly has become apparent that the 15 beds for summer are woefully inadequate. He came to ask for the city's help to double the number of beds.

Councilman John Mahaney asked if the city's efforts at providing emergency shelter weren't acting to draw in people from elsewhere in the county, such as Scotts Valley or Capitola.

Morin said the homeless don't congregate in Scotts Valley "because there is no place to" and they don't hang around Capitola because, he alleged, the police there drive them to the city limits.

Homelessness, a problem so intractable we try not to see it, became pandemic in the '80s. In San Francisco, there's actually a group of working homeless, folks who have steady jobs and still can't pay housing costs. (This is not surprising when the rent for a subsidized, low-income studio apartment in The City is \$630 a month, and only the poor can qualify.)

There's a spreading awareness, happily, that the inequities of the '80s must be reversed if the United States is to avoid the fate depicted in sci-fi post-apocalypse movies — the rich living in armored enclaves while the poor fight dogs and rats for street scraps.

When questioned about that accusation, Morin said his information came from the homeless themselves.

Councilman Joe Ghio said the fact that the homeless shy away from Scotts Valley and Capitola indicates that those cities need to do more. The fact that they're welcome in Santa Cruz, he said, indicated that the city's programs do, in fact, draw people to them.

Councilman Lane said one reason he brought the shelter program's request to Tuesday's meeting was that a recent study on the homeless recommended that sufficient shelter is needed so that no one has to sleep outdoors, in violation of the city's camping ban.

Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt said the council's policy had been to ensure that no one had to sleep out in the elements during winter. She said she was not interested in changing that policy to address the spring, summer and fall months.

Wormhoudt said she was more concerned that the report indicated that 236 children needed shelter and were sleeping in cars or out in the open.

"That is absolutely intolerable," Wormhoudt said.

Morin said the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program takes families in emergency situations in the winter, but is really not set up to accommodate them because the location of the shelter changes nightly.

Wormhoudt said he had been told that families stayed away from the program because parents were concerned about the safety of their children due to the client mix.

Councilman John Laird proposed that the city consider a request for funding during its budget deliberations, if the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program wants to operate a summer program for families only. The council unanimously passed that resolution.

The Interfaith Satellite Program handles the overflow from the city's 36-bed River Street shelter, which operates year-round.

The second and most important thing I learned is that people in Los Angeles, whether or not they are generous, are not unkind to the beggars of their city. If they can give money, they will, and if they can't or won't, they are generally willing to acknowledge a fellow human being. Ostright hostility is rare.

STREET SHEET

#76

September 6, 1990

Thursday

"Backward, flow backward, O tide of the years!

I am so weary of toil and tears--

Toil without recompense, tears all in vain--

Take them and give me my childhood again!

YOU

I have grown weary of dust and decay,

PAY

Weary of flinging my soul-wealth away,

25c

Weary of sowing for others to reap;

Rock me to sleep, mother--rock me to sleep!

--Elizabeth Akers Allen, "Rock Me to Sleep," 1860.

JAIL SWALLOWS UP JABBERWOCKY JAY & PADDYWAGON PETE FOR SLEEP CRIME MORE KANGAROO COURT CAKEWALKING SLATED FOR LINDA THE LARK

Growling he'd rather be inside sleeping than outside slaving, Paddywagon Pete Pascoe surrendered himself to the County Jail this morning rather than perform "Community Slavery" for slumbering in Santa Cruz without the bucks to rent a room. Pete faces 34 days on the floor of an overcrowded jail cell just several blocks from the site of the post office Homeless Table where he spent many nights on the concrete protesting the city's 11 PM- 8:30 AM Sleeping Ban.

Both Pete and Jabberwocky Jay--who went to jail in late August with a longer term of 58 days--were sent to the lockup by traffic referee Maddog Mulligan. The constitution-crushing jurist, having given Jay and Pete the maximum sentence of \$138 on many of their tickets, chose to continue playing patty cake with downtown politicians and send the "sleepcriminals" to jail rather than suspend their outrageous fines. With an emergency "sanctuary for sleepers" proposal on the agenda for City Council consideration on September 11, Maddog's kneejerk severity seemed excessive even for him.² [In contrast, bogus but misdemeanor "Public Nuisance" charges before other judges may be postponed and quietly dropped for those censored and stripped of their property at the Homeless Table earlier this year.]

Pete and Jay joined Boston Bob Hillman and "Judge Me Not" Joe Parker in requesting jail rather than involuntary servitude for their poverty crimes. Bob was one of the first to go to jail on a sentence of more than a week, earlier this summer, and Joe spent several weeks on the Watsonville work farm. Jay reported by phone from the slammer that he'd refused to work on the farm and so was being refused any time off for "good behavior."

Meanwhile Linda the Lark Edwards faces Sleeping Justice September 14 when she will face charges of "disrupting a public meeting" for confronting Busenhart and her Barbarians at City Council on July 24th.³ Still pending is county mischief against

1 Or "Community Service" as it is known in legal doublespeak.

2 For Mulligan's latest monstrosities evicting earthquake-devastated families-with-children, see Street Shit Sheet #57.

3 Busenhart's "Take Back Our Town" proposed then that city sleeping-without-a-credit-card be made an automatic first-time jailing offense. It is due to emerge from the City Council catacombs on Sept. 11th with a negative report. Why waste the city attorney's time at a bunch of jury trials when the it can rely on "good old boy" judges to find sleepers guilty time after time at half the time and money and with a quarter the public relations damage?

Linda for (a) ordering a cup of coffee at Denny's last spring ("trespass"), (b) standing in front of a paddywagon that was taking away a "criminal jaywalker" May 31st ("obstructing an officer"), and (c) giving out leaflets at the Homeless Table in January ("Public Nuisance").

With a possible six months in jail and \$1000 fine on each of these charges, Linda may be in new hot water for serving "criminal coffee and doughnuts" at the courthouse ("feeding without a permit"). J.U.S.T. (Join Us, Sleep Tonight) has been doing a sporadic morning breakfast in solidarity with sleep-prisoners, and to rally support for a moratorium on sleeping tickets and amnesty for sleep-prisoners until the Council acts on the sanctuary proposal.

Late Flash: At mid-day Sept. 6, Judge-Me-Not Joe called in from jail reporting he had been apprehended for criminal jaywalking warrants. None dare call it harassment.

METRO-MALL HOMELESS TABLE REAPPEARS STAFFED BY SANCTUARY CRITIC
LINDA THE LARK CHALLENGES HENNIG HARASSMENT ON UPPER MALL

While others in the Homeless movement express support for the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep's "sanctuary zone" proposal, Linda the Lark Edwards has been taking a different stand. "If we had decided to set up a sanctuary, it would be different. If it had been started and run by the homeless people. But bureaucrats wanting to take over and set it up like an open-air shelter with conditions, rules & regulations. A majority of the "homeless-by-choice" broke away from the system to get away from the bureaucracy. And that's why we wouldn't go for it."

"Two years ago about fifteen of us took sleeping bags, went behind the River St. Shelter. We said 'this is an open piece of land that is not being used and the homeless people can sleep back here.' And so we spent a couple of days checking it out, and then we just moved our sleeping bags and all our belongings there and started establishing a campsite. We had talked to City Council and gone to a bunch of meetings and were put off and pacified, while the cops kept giving us tickets. We didn't want to sit around waiting while the bureaucrats sat on their duffs. So we took action cause we saw the need and wanted to do something about it immediately, not wait for somewhere in the far future.

"We maintained the campground. We kept it organized. We kept it clean. We dug a latrine pit, like would be set up at a Rainbow gathering. We disposed of our own garbage. We had cooking facilities--stoves and stuff brought in. We cooked breakfast for everyone--including any homeless people who were hungry. Everyone was invited to come and check us out. We encouraged City Council members and candidates to come and check it out.

"I felt it was a complete success without government intervention. It lasted two weeks. Paul Brindel, under the pressure of the city, had to have us removed. He said his job was on the line. 'It's not me that wants to do this.' I don't know whether he wanted to or not. He let us set there for two weeks--so maybe he thought about it, or else he would have come out there on the second day.' Police finally came and warned us to get our stuff out of there; then they came back that night and arrested nine of us for refusing to leave a sanitary homeless-run campground. People were being fed and had a place to sleep. The only thing missing was city approval.

In concert with Bathrobespierre Robert Norse, Linda has been overseeing a new Homeless Table outside the Union Grove Music parking lot across from the Metro Center. Union Grove Music managers continue to harass street people, deadheads, homeless activists, youths, punks and others, reports Linda. Their complaints reportedly provoked police-homeless confrontation at the "forbidden fence" in late May.⁴ Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig and his sometime sidekick, Officer Kurbash⁵ Kern, have been stalking the mall nabbing criminal "fence-sitters", "tobacco possessors," and "fence leaners."

Yesterday Hennig and a fellow officer were caught leaning against the controversial fence themselves. Asked to explain himself, Hennig airily dismissed the matter as "police privilege." Unsatisfied, Linda and two Homeless Table workers declared themselves privileged characters as well and joined the "leaning" party. But the officers apparently found the company unsuitable, for they left shortly afterwards without posing for a group photo.⁶

The new Homeless Table offers sign-up sheets for the proposed Copwatch program, a volunteer effort to document and oversee police "cattleherding" on the mall. Linda also distributes flyers from J.U.S.T., discussing the need for ongoing demonstrations to deal with the troubling problem of homeless

4 Complaints from Union Grove reportedly provoked Hennig's Hooliganism at the "forbidden fence" earlier this summer. On May 30, Sgt. Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig arrested and roughed up Morpheus Mike Hobson for sitting on the parking lot fence ("trespass"). This prompted more than a dozen witnesses to file formal complaints to the police (with no announced action taken). A day later sixty people marched up the mall to City Hall to demand Hennig's suspension until he received non-violence training.

The police department responded by arresting and citing Bathrobespierre Robert, "Slyshoes" Sandra Loranger, Loudmouth Leith Austin, and Youthlover Yahsahweh for "conducting and participating in a demonstration without a non-commercial events permit." Maddog Mulligan will hear arguments that the law is unconstitutional before he rubberstamps the city's position and convicts the four later this fall. Morpheus Mike's charges were dropped in August, but trespass tickets continue against "criminal leaners."

5 Kurbash: [from the Turkish qirbach.] A lash or whip of hide used as an instrument of punishment in Turkey, Egypt, etc. Kern has been gaining notoriety recently for enforcing Hennig's "cattleherding" policies against "undesirables" at the top of the mall. [See Street Shit Sheet #55, pp. 13a & 47]

6 Meanwhile nearby Party Zone owner and state assembly candidate Wes Walker has announced he opposes police harassment of those outside his store--"my customers." He also claims that cattleherding is not police policy, that the minutes cited in St Sheet #55 were in error, but has not yet produced the "corrected" minutes. Walker's video arcade caters to youthful patrons, but some are still skeptical of Wes's commitment, noting that benches outside his place were removed at his instigation and sitting anywhere within half a block of his place has now become a crime. Critics are also wondering if his MerchantWatch program, directed against "criminals" will haul in panhandlers and potdealers.

insomnia while the Gang of 7 (City Council) sleeps. After a short-lived protest breakfast at the County Courthouse to protest the jail terms of Jabberwocky Jay and Paddywagon Pete, Linda and other J.U.S.T. members may be heading for another showdown with County Health honchos, who have declared giving away coffee-and-doughnuts a no-no, and threatened to pull out the year-and-a-half old Injunction used against SWAP (Soup Without a Permit) when it served homeless suppers at the Town Clock.

SANTA BARBARA HOMELESS COALITION LOOKS FORWARD TO TUESDAY VICTORY MONTHS OF CITY HALL SLEEP-INS PRODUCES ACCORD WITH COUNCIL

A homeless sleepout at City Hall that fluctuated in numbers from 30 to 80, but continued nightly since the beginning of April ended on August 27th when the City agreed to honor agreements made four years before. According to "No-Nonsense" Nancy MacGruder of the Santa Barbara Homeless Rights Coalition, the local City Council has agreed to incorporate a crucial inter-office memo into its anti-camping ordinance that allows sleeping, sleeping bags, and security of personal possessions throughout the city ~~on public property~~. She noted that it was the months-long vigil at City Hall which forced city authorities to the bargaining table.

In August 1986, homeless activists organized a national call for hundreds, if not thousands, of supporters nationwide to "Come to Santa Barbara; Go to Sleep, Go to Jail." Supported by Washington, D.C. organizers from Mitch Snyder's Community for Creative Non-Violence, the campaign forced an eleventh hour change in city law, which legalized sleeping in town. In later actions, the City Council ruled parks and the City Hall itself off-limits. And last fall, Superior Court judge Dodds held that sleeping itself was camping, overturning the legality of the entire settlement.

In the face of renewed police harassment, Santa Barbara homeless demanded that the city clarify the law in writing, which the Council refused to do, stating that an "unspoken agreement" was sufficient. A four-month long Sleep-In at City Hall ensued, capped by demonstrations in mid-August featuring Valorie Harper and Martin Sheen, demanding the city put its agreement down in black-and-white. Shortly thereafter, the city capitulated, and agreed to honor its part of the bargain.

Santa Barbara also has a homeless-run winter shelter program at its Armory, which takes pets, families, and vehicles, unlike Santa Cruz's Interfaith Satellite Shelter program. The Salvation Army there has storage facilities for homeless possessions, while Santa Cruz folks are still waiting for the unused lockers gathering dust at the Free Meal/proposed sanctuary zone area back of the River St. mini-Shelter to be released for use.

Up in San Francisco, *Food not Bombs*, the Coalition on Homelessness, and other activists arrested for sleeping at the Civic Center Plaza with the homeless (including Bathrobespierre Robert Norse) reported a victory in court August 31st. Muni Court Judge Moscone granted a defense demurrer to the city's latest "drive 'em into the shadows" campaign. Indictments under the state lodging/trespass law 647(i) were found vague and contradictory and returned to the D.A for dismissal or rewriting.

NEXT ISSUE: DEMONSTRATIONS NOW! WHERE, WHEN, & HOW!



"Sleep, that sometimes shuts up sorrow's eye,
Steal me awhile from mine own company."

--Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, act iii.

GANG OF 7 PREVIEW OF SANCTUARY PLAN PROMISES BAD REVIEWS HARASSMENT CONTINUES ON MALL; SLEEPING CITATIONS DOWN

City Council (fondly known as the Gang of 7) gave its initial reaction to the proposed Sleeper's Sanctuary on the back lot of the River St. mini-Shelter last Tuesday (Sept. 11), and the consensus was not kind. The Sanctuary would allow legalized low-income camping for 150 people on a temporary emergency basis, a respite from the city's dread Sleeping Ban, which bars all outdoor and vehicular sleeping from 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. The carefully crafted plan was orchestrated and distilled from homeless meetings by the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep¹ over the past two months.

In a heroic attempt to be polite, politically correct, and non-confrontational, the Coalition leadership barred Bathrobespierre Robert, successfully sought the ending of the post office Homeless Table, and abandoned all agitation for homeless rights not involving their campground proposal. The Sanctuary was backed by several thousand signatures, nearly ten thousand bucks, and dozens of liberal supporters as well as strong backing from many homeless people themselves. But, once before the Gang of 7 it evoked skeptical comments from Ghio, Laird, and Mahaney and objections from a pivotal vote--Wormhoudt herself.

Speakers supporting the Sanctuary included a "responsible" and "restrained" line of speakers from the Coalition. Queenbee Sharrin' Sherry Conable described the plan as a responsible attempt to move past polarization and tension and provide a minimal level of decency for homeless sleepers. Sentinel Mike Carltok emphasized that the Satellite Shelter Program was destabilizing and inadequate for working homeless. Bubbah Brian Koepke: "this is not a request for charity...we are not asking for a dime from the city." Nora Hochman urged the plan be taken seriously and noted that fine-tuning on it was ongoing.

Opposing it from the reactionary right were hairdresser Carolyn Busenhardt and two companions, who complained that allowing the homeless to sleep without paying or going to jail would only "subsidize bad habits," "keep the homeless homeless," and do too little too late.

Many of these hostile hypocritical criticisms ironically mirrored real concerns from militant homeless activists, who spoke later: that the sanctuary was a bureaucratic plum, a tiny safezone that would give police a greater excuse to attack those who chose not to use it. These critics from the left, excluded from the afternoon session's debate, spent their time serving soup on the sidewalk, but Linda the Lark returned in the evening to denounce the Sanctuary as a bureaucratic containment camp. Bathrobespierre Robert demanded there be a moratorium on tickets until the Council

¹ Dubbed by some pundits the "Coalition for a Safe Place to Meet" after its energetic antics to evict Bathrobespierre Robert Norse by moving its meeting place from the Resource Center for Non-Violence to the private homes of Sherry Conable, Ned Van
burgh, and others

made up its mind. And Loudmouth Leith offered support for the Sanctuary and apologies for past outbursts.

In the subsequent Council discussion, Laird granted that rents were not keeping pace with AFDC grants, but warned that the Sanctuary might not be "a temporary emergency" and insisted that the campground was not purchased for the homeless, but rather was surplus land to be sold off by the City as it saw fit. Yokoyama, previously reticent to express any opinion, expressed tentative support for the proposal, recalling that UCSC had dealt with student campers by setting up an RV park. Wormhoudt effusively thanked everyone, but seemed to be dismissing the plan as having many problems (insufficient financing, "health & safety concerns," other unspecified alternatives might be better, etc.).

Some observers preferred Mahaney's outright rejection of the plan to what seemed hypocritical stalling and election-eve politicking by powerful self-labeled "progressives." [Mayor Wormhoudt suggested that there be a study of the bed situation at the River St. mini-Shelter; figures that have been available for months. When challenged by Beiers to put into the proposal a search for "alternatives," the "deeply appreciative" Mayor abandoned the interest, leading cynics to charge she was setting the plan up for stall or defeat.] The plan was finally sent to staff by a 6-1 vote to be returned for Public Hearing on Sept. 25.

Meanwhile, Jabberwocky Jay Green entered his third and Paddywagon Pete Pascoe² his second week behind bars for "unauthorized sleeping in Santa Cruz"--the city's medieval punishment for their 8-month homeless rights vigil outside the main post office. Jay reported from jail Sept. 14th that Muni Court Judge "Kangeroo" Kelly had offered to drop his and Linda the Lark Edwards' "Public Nuisance" citations on October 30th, if they engaged in no further sleep-outs at the Homeless Table. [Since mid-July, the location of the Table has shifted to the Mall-Metro area and its hours limited largely to daylight.]

Linda's Homeless Table is currently sponsoring the Berkeley-inspired Copwatch project. This plan is designed to document patterns of police harassment and abuse. Linda hopes to encourage and empower those being hassled. If folks can be shown how to assert their own rights and file complaints (even though complaints currently go nowhere), street people may become more willing to witness harassment incidents for their fellow citizens, and such a presence may serve as a deterrent.

Also wanted: a formal review board--run independently of the police that reviews abusive incidents and sets policy guidelines. Such a watchdog group might make Chief Bassett's Hounds more accountable for their "cattleherding" policies. As her command post, Linda chose the sidewalk adjacent to the Union Grove Music "forbidden fence" to keep a close watch on petty police citations for "sitting on planters," "leaning against the fence," "dog on the mall" etc.

Incoming reports indicate a continued slowdown in camping citations since the massive ticketing of 12-18 sleepers in late August at the proposed Sanctuary site [supposedly on

² Correspondence should be addressed to Jay Mitchell Green at County Jail, 259 Water St., Santa Cruz 95060 (out-dates: Oct. 7), and to Calvin Peterson Pascoe at County Work Farm, 100 Rountree, Watsonville 95076. Pete can be phoned at 724-9702 from 5-10 p.m. (Out-date: Sept. 22).

complaint from River St. mini-Shelter bouncer Strongarm Steve]. Reports from the railroad tracks indicate ongoing harassment but less ticketing. The day of the Ice House fire, 8-10 vehicular residents were rousted from their roost on an empty lot at the bottom of the mall in a "scare away the scapegoats" sweep. And police still energetically enforce old warrants putting a new camping case in court daily, as well as the ever-present backlog of protest cases in the Star Chamber of Maddog Mulligan at mid-week.

Recent focus has shifted to abuses by private security guards (PSI brownshirts) down in the boardwalk area where half a dozen onlookers reportedly witnessed a full-scale beating several Saturday nights ago on Sept. 1. Also back in style: hogtying for unfashionable alcoholics, as described by one female victim the night before the beating. "They didn't like my dancing and singing, so the brownshirts handcuffed and held me down in an alley, threatening me. Then the police came, hogtied me and threw me in jail for 8 hours." Well, naturally! Tourism comes first!

COURT'S IN SESSION: SPREAD YOUR LEGS!

+++++"NO DEALS" SAID 'MANY MILES' MIKE WILSON to his attorney, Growlin' Greg Cobin, in the face of numerous camping and Public Nuisance charges. At that, the D.A. folded and dismissed all the charges, freeing the defiant activist [and his confiscated American flag? Reports are unclear.] Wilson previously worked at Karen Gilette's "Free Meal" and gained some notoriety there for whipping up sentiment against Bathrobespierre Robert and his informal J.U.S.T. (Join Us, Sleep Tonight) meetings.³ A strong supporter of the July 4th Homeless Independence Day rally and the Homeless Table Vigil, Mike has reportedly returned to Santa Barbara to carry on the fight there.

+++++POSTPONED AGAIN! was Muni Court's latest message to Linda the Lark--who faces a maximum of 1 1/2 years in jail and \$3000 fines for (a) ordering a cup of coffee at Denny's on Ocean St. this spring ("trespass"), (b) blocking a paddywagon carrying a criminal jaywalker in late May ("obstructing an officer"), and (c) interrupting Busenhart's bigotry at City Council last July ("disrupting a meeting"). Her trials were put off into the winter--exact dates to be calendered on October 30 at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom C. Unless Linda yanks her time waiver and demands speedy trial within 45 days--which she's threatened to do. But that may be from behind bars, since artful anarchist faces jail for refusing to perform Community Slavery for various Sleeping

3 He, Sentinel Mike Carltock, Moonrise Mike Carreiro, and Morpheus Mike Hobson have been ruefully dubbed "4 Blind Mikes" for spearheading Gilette's effort to politically sanitize her Free Meal by ousting Bathrobespierre. On August 26, Gilette allowed Bittersweet Bert G. to give patrons a half-hour tirade as they stood in line, denouncing Norse; she later recognized him as a speaker in an impromptu forum called to banish (a) forbidden opinions ("politics") and (b) Norse.

Bert threatened Norse physically, began throwing food at him, and finally had to be restrained. Norse's comment afterwards: "at least Bert rose to the occasion this time by using a muffin rather than a metal chair to throw my way." [Last November Bert swung a chair at Norse after vandalizing his car]

busts at the Homeless Table earlier this year. Visit your local Homeless Table at the Metro to hear the details and to help.

+++++WANT FREE SPEECH? CLEAR IT WITH CRIMESTOPPER CENTRAL!

That's the ruling of Maddog Mulligan in the first of a series of protest cases involving Deputy Chief "Doublespeak" Dunbaugh's "non-commercial event" ordinance, which slipped past the Gang of 7 in the summer of 1989 on the promise that it would "have no effect" on political demonstrations.

No First Strike demonstrator Jovial Jason Schwartz defended himself in early September against charges that he violated city ordinance 10.65.010--parading without a permit--for associating with a colorful march from the Town Clock to the Beach on April 18th. As one of many independents supporting the action, Jason made the fatal mistake of trying to "do things legally" by applying for a sound amplification permit for a subsequent event at the Beach.

Police attacked the march before it reached its destination, and two months later Schwartz received a citation in the mail for not applying for another permit. Though Jason was not even on the march itself and took no formal leadership role, Mulligan went through his usual contortions to dance in tandem with the prosecution and found the peace demonstrator guilty with a 55 hours of Community Service penalty.

In what has become a standard repressive tactic, Maddog refused to hear any constitutional arguments unless Schwartz gave up his right to be present when the judge gave his ruling and pronounced sentence. Schwartz refused to agree to this bullying-from-the-bench, so the very real and pressing questions he raised about the Police Dept. as Political Censor were not heard.

+++++WATCH FOR A VIGOROUS REPLAY of the Schwartz case as Slyshoes Sandra Loranger, Bathrobespierre Robert Norse, and Loudmouth Leith Austin face Maddog with attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich at their side on October 15 at 8:30 a.m. The three homeless rights activists⁴ stand accused of walking through town in a parade that carried signs demanding Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig's suspension for roughing up Morpheus Mike Hobson the day before--"organizing and participating in a parade without a non-commercial event permit."

The three will argue that the police have no business harassing demonstrations they don't like with chump charges designed to chill basic constitutional rights. With Maddog Mulligan, however, if you're a cop speaking, it's "tell us the facts of the case!" If you're an ordinary citizen, abandon rights all ye who enter here! Come on down and have a gander at this judicial goosing. After all, you're paying his salary!

+++++EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS GOT THE BOOT FROM MULLIGAN in yet another case of his "fatal attraction" to establishment-approved idiocy the same afternoon Schwartz was stripped of his First Amendment rights. Locals since 1957, Robert and Jean Dore have owned a 6-acre piece of land within the city and allowed four trailers, without hookups, on pads, an emergency place to locate since last January in the wake of the earthquake.

⁴ Along with Youthlover Yahsehweh, whose case has been lost in the Traffic Court computer.

Squealing bureaucrats from the Planning Dept. and City Attorney's office moved to evict the 14 people from the land, using a vague zoning code that barred "eyesores." The trailers are set back 150' from the road and screened by two separate rows of trees. Federal money through FEMA was funding these families--who had literally nowhere else to go after the Scotts Valley Trailer Park they'd been living in became uninhabitable. Extensive inquiries up and down the coast reveal "no room."

City attorney "Barbwire" Barasone cited a code that includes undefined terms like "setbacks" and "side yard" that refers to an urban not rural setting. But Maddog swept common sense, constitutional rights, and compassion aside in one grand gesture and found the couple guilty as charged for a \$260 fine. The several families have until October 4th to evaporate or face the consequences, but Rustic Robert and Genial Jean have declared they intend to fight the matter in court, before City Council, and if necessary to take it directly to the community. Welcome aboard!

+++++MORE OF THE SAME OLD STORY for Rodent (Matthew Cranner) and Stormin' Norman Gross as they face mundane malarky from Maddog on Sept. 18th with yet more Sleeptrials. Linda the Lark has declared she'll go to jail rather than do Community Slavery for sleeping. Rodent feels his time is better spent outside. And at presstime, we hadn't heard from Norman. Meanwhile "Judge Me Not" Joe Parker was in and out with only 5 days behind bars for a brace of sleepcrime warrants as the courts moved to cut their losses.

And Bathrobespierre Robert had his own misdemeanor "failing to give birthdate and social security" charge put off until November 9 10 a.m. in Courtroom C, when he and Grinnin' Ray Gruneich would begin extensive Murgia Discovery Motion pleadings to show dry rot inside the D.A.'s office.

Special Sleepcriminal Tip from Jabberwocky Jay for all you slumberbunnies who plan to go to jail rather than do Community Slavery: Convert your Community Slavery time to jail at the traffic clerk's window in the basement of the County Building. Otherwise Maddog Mulligan may add 2 days per warrant for each Community Slavery sentence not performed.

RUTS IN THE ROADWAY

.....CALAMITY JANE IMLER SEZ SHE'S HEADED WEST and after the Sippin' Soup Supper in front of City Hall last Tuesday in her honor, inquiring minds want to know "when?" Word by phone is that Jane's due back a few days before the Sept. 25th Public Hearing on the Sleeper's Sanctuary. Rumor has it that she's intending to recruit for her new group HOCC (Homeless Opposing Containment Camps) when she's not recuperating from a long-term illness.

As the grandmother of the Free Meal, Calamity Jane was bypassed by bitter bureaucrats, seeking a less outspoken manager, when they chose Karen Gilette to inherit the feeding program last spring. Jane has gone several rounds with Bathrobespierre Robert in times past. But when she was told that Norse had been evicted "political organizing in violation of the lease," Calamity laughed and said, "that's not in the lease; I should know. I helped write it. Somebody just doesn't want Bobby around."

.....TERRIBLE TOM, ON THE OTHER HAND, TIPS HIS HAT to Keystone Karen Gilette, Mistress of the Free Meal, who did a quick

draft of skinheads and punks, on hearing that local politicians and bureaucrats were paying a funding visit to her outdoor feeding site back of the River St. mini-Shelter.

Sporadic reports indicate food running out as early as 5 p.m. on some evenings, so more money may be a priority. Since the mid-summer fire that burned down her Emeline St. kitchen, Karen and her cooks have been operating out of the once-forbidden River St. kitchen. Due soon: a mobile kitchen unit being assembled in southern California.

Tom found her cast of "rehabilitated workers" colorful, and the move bold and plucky! But when will she turn her skills to rehabilitating "Bad Boy" Bathrobespierre--who continues to absent himself from the Meal after Gilette-orchestrated attacks on his forbidden flyering and homeless-meeting?

.....COPWATCHERS ALERT! BEFORE BEING LOCKED UP for habitual sleepcrime, Jabberwocky Jay and Paddywagon Pete kicked off the Copwatch program with a special tribute to that Hohenzollern of harassment, the esteemed Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig. Providing him with a free escort, the two trailed the lighthearted lawman for block after block, always keeping a respectful distance. Hennig nimbly lost them at the Silver Bullet bar, but Linda the Lark later noticed Hennig's squadcar sported a new message: End the Camping Ban! [Speaking for himself and not the Department, Hennig found value in the proposed Sleeper's Sanctuary, but was not yet prepared to make a formal speech before City Council, saddening his many homeless fans.]

#####POSTCARDS FROM THE PROVINCES#####

#####MIXED RESULTS IN SANTA BARBARA, reports No-Nonsense Nancy MacGruder of the Homeless Rights Coalition, after a 4-3 vote in a Tuesday City Council meeting. The new ordinance reinstates the Sleeping Ban in all downtown areas, including City Hall, the parks, and--for the first time since 1986--the sidewalks. But it permits sleeping and secures all the homeless property you can carry on all "unimproved" city property--presumably the "Jungle" next to Highway 101.

It was there in 1984 that a protest demanding the right to vote stopped freeway traffic and initiated two years of demonstrations. These actions led to the historic 1986 victory ending the downtown Sleeping Ban, the funding of the Homeless Rights Coalition, and the homeless management of the winter shelter Armory.

As reported in *Street Shit Sheet* #76, local court decisions eroding the 1986 victory led to renewed sleep-ins at City Hall--which continue with reduced numbers to the present. The reinstated Sleeping Ban is slated to take effect around October 11, unless it's thrown out in court first. Hang on, Santa

On a more positive note, Nancy noted the County will begin charging the city \$150 for every prisoner booked into the jail come January 1. With annoyed sleepers refusing to sign their citations and choosing to go to jail instead, this could become rather costly for the sleepbusters. Don't count the Santa Barbara homeless out yet.

#####FOOD NOT BOMBS' UNQUENCHABLE KEITH MCHENRY, chief cook and merry ringleader of the outlaw San Francisco bellystuffing food provider group, was systematically beaten by seven police

officers, county sheriff, and plainclothes narcotics agents inside police headquarters on Sept. 13th. Arrested at 6th and Mission where he was serving food at the invitation of the local Merchant's Association (!), McHenry was hauled in along with his food and car for violating a 1989 injunction against serving food without a permit. [McHenry's permit was suspended July 14th in the face of a new city ordinance eliminating any permit process for free food groups serving the homeless and street community.]

The brutality apparently began at the station after Keith identified several narcs, noting "hey, those are the narcs that sell crack near our table on Mission St." After several other civilians loudly agreed, McHenry found himself handcuffed in the elevator getting pummeled by uniformed officers on the way up to the sixth floor. Professionally pounded for a maximum of pain and a minimum of telltale marks, McHenry says this was the most serious attack yet by city soupsnatchers, who proceeded to repeatedly smash his face against the wall, as they swung him by his ponytail.

On the sixth floor, Keith's beating continued in the "rubber room" for 15 minutes as narcs joined in. There, he reports, he was stripped, his arms and legs twisted, and he was kned in the groin. Made to get down on his knees, his face was smashed into the floor. Police up and down on him. At one point, he confessed, he feared he was going to have a heart attack. Bruised and battered, but unbowed, he was put into restraints, held on a "littering" warrant until anxious attorneys got him released the next day.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* (9/14) carried a brief buried story, omitting all mention of any violence. McHenry recently won an unexpected victory at the Health Dept. where he exposed a malicious attempt to suspend his permit for imaginary "health violations" [the issue is still "under consideration."]. *Food Not Bombs* continues to feed people daily in spite of occasional police harassment. Volunteers can call 415-330-5030. Call for meeting times. Donations should be sent to 3145 Geary Blvd. #12, S.F., CA 94118.

*****MAILBAG*****MAILGAB*****MAILBAG*****MAILGAB*****

Good Faith Gestures to Those Lacking in Compassion?

"The city hall keeps coming across with the attitude that we should somehow appease them with 'good faith' gestures and the like, because of our 'crimes' of public sleeping or 'maintaining a public nuisance.' They are smug and insulting in their pride, while riding high on the hog.

"Lacking in compassion, their decisions are marked by self-interest and the denial of reality. Their eyes are shut by fear. Their ears are deafened by prideful indignation. Their crimes are directed by greed. They conspire to deny us our civil and human rights, to censor us, to harass, imprison, and even to beat and kill us.

"How ashamed of their fortunes they must be to react so violently to the sight of the poor. They demand good faith gestures from us?! Rather it is they that should be required to show good faith for once and seek forgiveness from us."

"This is my personal opinion.

Talking Back to Chief Bassett

"The SCPD Police Chief's statements about homeless activists are blatantly hostile and discriminatory. They are a disgrace to law enforcement. Where is the unbiased professionalism?"

"Chief Bassett's statement that homeless activists are "social parasites" and his accusation that they "drain necessary social service dollars away from people truly in need" are part of a personal and political attempt to discredit their cause. The real abuse of public funds is done in the name of the law--police out hunting hobos and deadheads. What? Is there no real crime going on elsewhere?"

"The chief also called the activists "self-serving." Sure, chief. Now that you've got folks whipped up into a reactionary frenzy over the street people, you can justify more harassment and increased enforcement of repressive city codes.

"I'm calling on all concerned with human rights to speak out. Contact those in our community whose responsibility it is to serve the needs of all citizens. Stop the oppression. Stop the rejection.

---Robert L. Patton, Santa Cruz,
(427-4533)

Barnett attacks officials, judges, and the Sentinel

"...As a beneficiary of the mental health system, I would choose to live a wretched existence on the streets of Santa Cruz rather than be a drugged-up inmate in a mental institution. On the streets, I'm a human being. In an institution, I'm an animal who had better perform his circus tricks.

"Give me my right to be free, regardless of my 'mental state.' I want a jury of citizens, not mental health professionals to determine if I am competent. Jury trials make the county think twice about pursuing phoney conservatorships. Unlike lock-em-up results from local kangaroo-court judges, jury decisions reflect skepticism with psychiatric testimony.

"Like the failed Communist systems of Eastern Europe, the mental health monstrosity excludes its victims from any real say in governing their own lives and treatment. As long as Rama Khalsa, Paul Bellina, and Police Chief Jack Bassett are at their posts, labeled "mentally ill" and/or homeless people should tremble in fear like the Jews in Nazi Germany.

"With the *Sentinel's* hideous campaign publicizing right-wing agitator Carolyn Busenart, the move to persecute the weak and the deviant continues. It is obvious that the organizers of this campaign reject the example of Jesus Christ in reaching out to the wretched. Brute force not kindness is their solution for the complex problems of being strange and/or homeless.

--Fred Barnett, Felton, CA

COMING NEXT ISSUE: What to do until the Sandman comes after City Council gives the Sanctuary plan a sandbagging? Demonstrate together? Or wait to get picked off one by one? Keep your cards and letters coming on folks. Address: the Homeless Table



"Sleep is a sort of innocence and purification.
 Blessed be the One who gave it to the poor children of humanity
 as the sure and faithful companion of life,
 our daily healer and consoler.
 --adapted from Amile, *Journal*, 20 March, 1853.

SUPPORT SANDRA LORANGER'S FAST FOR HOMELESS FREEDOM!¹
REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT WITH SANDY PERSONALLY AT HER TABLE
LET HER KNOW WHERE YOUR SYMPATHIES ARE, 11 AM - 1 PM
Monday Oct 8 in front of the Food Pavilion on Cedar St.
Wednesday Oct 10 in front of the County Courthouse
Friday Oct 12 in front of the County Courthouse²

WHAT'S INSIDE!

| | |
|--|-----|
| SANDRA LORANGER MEETS THE PUBLIC.....p. | 1. |
| BATHROBESPIERRE IN TROUBLE WITH FREE MEAL BOSS....p. | 1. |
| SANTA CRUZ SOAPS: AS THE FREE MEAL TURNS.....p. | 5. |
| GANG OF 5 DIGS QUICK GRAVE FOR SANCTUARY PLAN.....P. | 6. |
| SANTA CRUZ SOAPS: THE GUIDING LIGHT.....p. | 8. |
| MAILBAG.....p. | 9. |
| SANTA CRUZ SOAPS: THE YOUNG AND THE SLEEPLESS....p. | 11. |
| COURTROOM KUNG FU-DOEY.....p. | 12. |
| COALITION CONTORTIONS.....p. | 13. |
| MEMO FROM A MADMAN.....p. | 14. |

BATHROBESPIERRE BOOTED FROM FREE MEAL AGAIN OVER "FLYERING"; ACTIVIST BLAMES BUREAUCRATIC POWER-TRIPPING, POLITICAL TIMIDITY

On Tuesday Oct. 2, for the first time in a running war of words at the Free Meal, Q.C.² Karen Gillette brought armed police onto the site of the Free Meal to remove Bathrobespierre Robert Norse for "trespass." The Free Meal boss's plea to police followed imposition of a new set of rules barring the distributing of flyers, the gathering of reports of police abuse, and the presence of "journalists." The rules, Karen privately confided to at least one homeless person, were tailored to provide a pretext for removing Norse from the meal.

Observers noted that it was only Norse's flyers that the staff tore down, while those from the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep and Midlife Mike³ continued to be readily available several days after the new "rules" were posted. Still canvassing to register voters on the site was Gingersnap George, who reported no interference from the management. At presstime, site manager Bubbah Brian Koepke had reportedly offered to set up a segregated off-site "journalists' doghouse" where Norse could sulk and receive homeless guests.

In the past, Bathrobespierre and Cupcake had frequently been on different ends of the homeless advocacy spectrum, Robert organizing high-profile demonstrations and CD to embarrass and

1 Sandy Loranger in no way endorses the Street Shit Sheet, its coverage of homeless events involving her, or this announcement of her whereabouts. We simply present it to our readers as a public service.

2 Short for "Queen of the Cupcakes," the (cont. next page)

pressure the city into legalizing food-serving and sleep, Karen working behind the scenes with officials and bureaucrats to set up the current Free Meal. Controversy flared in mid-August when J.U.S.T. (Join Us, Sleep Tonight) announced an informal meeting at the Free Meal to discuss what to do when the "Gang of 7" [City Council] turned down the emergency sanctuary zone. Cupcake and her cackling kitchen crew interrupted and disrupted the quiet meeting with shouts and arguments.

Karen's hecklers claimed that the Meal lease was "endangered" by "political meetings," particularly meetings at which civil disobedience was discussed or planned. Since such meetings had taken place with the official approval of Karen at the end of May and again in late June, Bathrobespierre dismissed Karen's interference as a form of political censorship.

In the days that followed, Karen's kitchen crew continued to spread the claim that Bathrobespierre's actions would "force the meal to close down." After a flyer announcing a third J.U.S.T. meeting at the meal site appeared, Karen and her cooks fanned the fears of the crowd eating there against Bathrobespierre and in the ensuing tumult, called for and secured a vote without discussion that "barred politics" from the meal. A second vote seeking to bar Bathrobespierre himself won only scattered support, but Karen nonetheless informed the beleaguered Street Shit Sheet

meal boss was previously known in these pages as Keystone Karen for her work in supporting and then running the Free Meal. Her new nom-de-cuisine, Queen of the Cupcakes, was bestowed in honor of the sweets she uses to please her customers and the moral character of the crew of one-time activists that has gravitated around her in recent months.

3. Mike M., previously known as Toothless Mike and Middle-of-the-Road Mike, denounced this most recent unauthorized namechange, but has yet to offer an acceptable substitute. Submissions for the most appropriate sobriquet can be left at Linda the Lark's Metro Homeless Table with a modest prize to be given the winner.

4. Actually only 5 of the 7 rejected the plan. The Street Shit Sheet has fairly consistently applied the term "Gang of 7" to the City Council and "gangmember" to its constituent chairwarmers--specifically relating to their backwardness on homeless rights issues. Denounced as "namecalling" by some, these characterizations actually appear rather mild and whimsical to us, given the intensity of the Gang's hostility to homeless rights and the duration of its misinformation campaign about the treatment of the homeless in Santa Cruz ("Everything is beautiful; it's a national problem; it's a county problem; look how much money we spend, etc."). In fact, some of Carolyn Busenhardt's arguments about how well off the homeless are here may have originated with Wormhoudt, Laird, Yokoyama, Ghio, and Mahaney--the Gang of 5.

The hard work, eloquent oratory, and subsequent actions of Councilmembers Catherine Beiers and Don Lane require they be removed from the category of "Gangmembers." They remained in that status for so long only because of their public silence on vital issues. We are glad to see them emerging from the darkness, salute their recent work and public statements, and only regret that it took so long to come to this point.

editor that he was "B6ed" thereafter⁵.

Sobered and somewhat intimidated by these events (and by a subsequent *Santa Cruz Urinal*⁶ newsstory trashing the tremulous street writer), Bathrobespierre took a week's leave from the meal during which he spoke with the meal founder, Calamity Jane Imler, to investigate the legal basis of Karen's claims that the meal was in danger⁷. After she'd assured him it was not, Bathrobespierre returned to the meal on Sept. 25th with copies of the lease and use permit pinned to his 'I Am Beyond Rehabilitation' t-shirt and resumed gathering reports of police abuse there, though he announced no new J.U.S.T. meetings. The lease agreement and use permit, obtained from the City Clerk and Planning Dept., revealed no clauses necessitating a political gestapo at the Meal. The "funding agreements"--cited by Q.C. in later conversations as the real basis for concern--remained under lock and key at the William James Association.

Repeated phone calls to "Deadend" Davidson, the secretary there, ran head on into her refusal to reveal the secret documents. When Calamity Jane spoke to her informally, Davidson confided that there was actually nothing specific in the documents authorizing political censorship. Rather it was Davidson's own interpretation that such control could be exercised. Could the documents be seen for others to make their interpretations? Only with a court order, Deadend retorted--ever-loyal to Q.C. Karen and her entourage.

After a few days relief, Karen's staff renewed their attack on Bathrobespierre, engaging him in loud arguments and denunciations--which then became the basis of charging him with "disruptive" behavior. At a meeting of activists and homeless in Loudon Nelson park on Sept. 29 to consider a response to the Gang of 7's "no sleep for the homeless" decision, Karen's kitchen cubs monopolized the meeting with shrill denunciations of Bathrobespierre and their determination to wield exclusive exclusionary power at the Free Meal. Bubbah Brian Koepke served him with a "legal notice" that he would be legally restrained from

5 See *Street Shit Sheet* #77, p. 3., footnote 3, and flyer *Friends of Homeless Rights: Enough of Blackballing, Time for Common Sense* (9/19/90)

6 Peddled to innocents through a city-wide system of paperracks under the misleading pseudonym, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. Also known to oldtimers as the *Santa Cruz Senile* and the *Santa Cruz Secondal*.

7 Creative rumormongers have recently spread a story saying Calamity Jane is somehow prompting Bathrobespierre to "attack" the Free Meal so that she can reclaim it for herself. Since Imler continues to suffer in frequent pain from Epstein Barr virus (or myelitis--she's not sure which) allowing her only half a day out of bed at a stretch, this theory seems to lack substance. Its companion theme is that Norse is seeking to close the meal out of pique, or possibly to restart a confrontational Town Clock meal himself that would serve as an organizing base for attacking the Sleeping Ban.

Theorists propounding this view overlook several facts: (a) Norse supported the meal's lease at City Council (cont. next page)

returning to the meal.■

On his return to the meal, Karen's Cupcakes resumed demands that he leave, warned they could not protect him against impending violence, threatened to tow his car and loudly interrupted quiet conversations he was having with others. Requests to the management that such harassment be ended were unavailing, claims Bathrobespierre. When Karen herself called armed police on Tuesday Oct. 2 to deal with the menace of even more quiet conversations Norse was having with locals there, the mischief mistress explained that such "disruptions" and "the will of the homeless" were the basis for her reluctant decision to call in the bulls.

When Calamity Jane offered to mediate between Q.C. and Bathrobespierre to spare the Meal the sordid spectacle of a non-violent advocate being led off in handcuffs, the "no hassles" hostess cut her off with a curt, "It's too late. He's crazy anyway."

After consultations with police and supporters, Norse decided to leave the Meal saying "I've spoken to the folks I wanted to and the Meal is over anyway." The next day he returned with a copy of the trespass law, a letter from attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich, and a personal note to Karen urging mediation. Norse said he was leaving the Meal for a few days to allow a "cooling off" period and to give Q.C. time to consider before calling the police again. The note requested a soupwar ceasefire and a foodfight summit to allow everyone to turn their energies to real issues.

The Grueneich opinion held that since the Free Meal was "open to the general public," there was no legitimate basis for alleging "trespass", even though the city property was being administered "privately" by the William James Association. Accordingly, any arrest demanded by Q.C. could become the basis of

Sept. 25th when it was renewed--though he urged there be no censorship there; (b) the CD of Norse and others started the Meal in the first place; and (c) Norse has a known aversion to cooking.

8 Once the coordinator of the Homeless Rights Alliance and an articulate champion of human rights, Bubbah Brian Koepke's new position as site coordinator of the Free Meal seems to have produced a significant reactionary shift in his attitudes. Would the old Koepke have announced he was calling the police to tow an activist's car? The threat was not carried out, but a megalomaniac manner of bureaucratic bossism has invaded the spirit of the old Brian.

Koepke described himself at the Loudon Nelson meeting as the man in the middle--eager to rid the meal of Norse so that Q.C. Karen wouldn't "close down the meal" because she couldn't stand the sight of Norse--as Koepke publicly said she had threatened to do.

Others, having heard Q.C. bragging that she had the support of her homeless soupserver against Norse, wondered if the Santa Cruz kitchen countess was more concerned with personal power and winning some sort of private battle than with securing a "no hassle" meal. After all, it would only take a word to her soup-serving sycophants insisting that Norse not be hassled unless he grew loud, abusive, or violent and that would end the entire controversy. The fact that she declines to rein in her

a false arrest suit.

At presstime, Q.C.'s only response to Norse's overtures was a reported offer to exile the undesirable to a "Journalists Only" outhouse on the edge of the Shelter property so that he could sulk in solitary splendor and hold court there.

Norse, for his part, says he will continue to frequent the Free Meal, both because he feels it is the most natural and convenient place to contact homeless people with concerns and complaints and because he feels it is unwise to succumb to intimidation on political matters. "If they can evict me, they can evict anyone," he noted. "It's too bad the Free Meal has joined the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep in adopting a 'muzzle the militants' policy, but then that's what happens when liberals move in to coopt a movement."

SANTA CRUZ STREET SOAPS

From the Loins of Nytol Quibblesnatch:

Soapless Opera for the Unshowered

For all you soap opera fans who've been missing out lately 'cause you have to take care of little distractions like where to shit, shower and sleep, here is an update of Santa Cruz's own soaps. They're a bit offbeat, but definitely very entertaining, like Santa Cruz itself. For your amusement...

***** AS THE FREE MEAL TURNS*****

Meanwhile back in the slave feeding quarters, Big Bad Bruce showed up again. "Oh, no!", quavered Scarlett, "not more in-flam-a-tor-ee flyers? How will I ever serve these poor dears when I'm so upset!" She teetered on the brink of a swoon and nearly fell into the cornbread. Gathering her in his manly arms, Rubbah Rhett stroked her fine auburn hair gently and murmured, "I'll take care of these Yankee carpetbaggers."

Striding swiftly toward the bearded intruder, Rhett assumed a commanding air of authority, "You don't belong here among our darkies. We take care of them well, and they love us." "Want a flyer?" glowered Bad Bruce, digging into his knapsack feverishly. Scarlett looked on from afar as her favorite overseer moved to deal with the crisis. "Perhaps I won't have to resign and flee to Savannah after all," she confessed to one of her favorites, the sensitive and soft-spoken Jefferson, whose ukelele-strumming had so often soothed her troubled spirits in times past.

"Ah'm so glad I have Rhett heah to protect me and preserve our way of life," she continued, "but will he be able to stop that outside agitator from stirring up confusion and discord among our troubled people? Quickly, Mike, Mike, Mike, and Mike! You--fly to Rhett's side and help him before it is too late."

As though moving as one, the many Mikes swept over the battleground, rekindling Rhett's courage and stiffening his stamina. "You outlandish devil," declared the heartened Rhett, "reveal your true purpose here!" A cackle from the side sent a shiver down Rhett's quivering spine. It was none other than the evil crone Aunt Jemima, who had cleverly insinuated herself between Rhett and his prey. "Your rules suck," she croaked, "and, besides, who the hell seasoned my soup with toxic cement

dust?" In the resulting turmoil, Rhett had to withdraw unsatisfied, and Big Bad Bruce continued rousing the slaves the mutiny and madness.

Luckily, beyond the plantation gates as night fell, the friendly constables were rounding up wayward slaves and gently guiding them to the land where the sun don't shine.

GANG OF 5 ARROGANCE BRIEFLY UNITES SQUABBLING ACTIVISTS
LAME DUCK PSEUDO-PROGRESSIVES BUSHWACK SANCTUARY PLAN

Ignoring an overwhelming tide of homeless and middle-class support for an emergency sanctuary for sleepers, 5 members of the Gang of 7 pressed forward with what seemed a preplanned agenda, piously larded with "caring concern" for the homeless.

Bathrobespierre Robert Norse and Keystone Karen Gillette--entrenched in a two-month long feud over Gillette's exercise of censorship-through-mob-terrorism at her Free Meal--nodded at each other in sympathy and disgust as Gangmember Laird⁸ recited a familiar litany of pretexts.

On-the-spot reporter Midlife Mike filed this report from City Hall:

This was my first time at a SC City Council meeting, and what I saw, while hardly surprising--this council has supported the notorious camping ban for years--was very disturbing.

Speaker after speaker, many representing major constituencies, pleaded for passage of a use permit for a temporary campsite behind the River Street Shelter. In (non) response, Vice Mayor Jane Yokoyama, in a moment of absurd paternalism, suggested that homeless persons defer to her queasiness about their not having a roof over their heads, and settle instead for the armory.⁹ But wasn't she really only using the armory as a cover for her own abandonment of human rights issues when they are not far away or involve symbolic gestures?

Besides, the city has already put the armory to use as a homeless shelter. So Yokoyama was probably being disingenuous with her phony curiosity and rhetorical questions about the armory and the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program. She had to have heard--somewhere--what every street person already knows--that the Satellite Program didn't always have enough beds available last winter, and often used the armory to meet the need.

Incidentally, about a week before that fateful City Council meeting, Conable et al. invited the Satellite Program's Andrew Morin to a meeting of the Coalition, where he very magnanimously offered to take over the campground's management in exchange for funding the project. Homeless members of the Coalition were suspicious that Lorin really wanted to take away a key provision of the campground proposal, self-governance by residents. Morin was strangely reluctant to provide any assurances on that issue, and the Coalition quickly tabled further discussion of the offer. I couldn't help wondering whether Morin's offer was really the council's. Apparently, another deal was then struck, this one behind closed doors, and involving the city funding "transitional housing" on the same site.

⁸ Or "Lord Laird" as he is occasionally termed among the the more irreverent homeless rabble and their claue.

⁹ Unlike last year, when the earthquake (cont. next page)

As for our mayor, Her Sliminess carefully distanced herself from some of the extreme, "dehumanizing," comments by the Take Back Our Town loonies in the audience, even as her vote clearly aligned her politically with them. As a lame duck, Mayor Wormwood could have voted to "do the right thing," as many who spoke urged. But nooo! She spoke instead of how it "pained" her to break with her erstwhile friends (hemorrhoids maybe? Or perhaps a headache from having to endure so much freedom of speech...), but she must resist all pressure and vote for the status quo. What was to me the evening's moment of highest absurdity--more so than the Agnewesque ramblings of a clearly disturbed individual, Carolyn Busenhardt--was this attempt by the mayor to present her rejection of the homeless as a profile in courage.

This proposal was indeed, as Sherry Conable observed, "the least (the council) could do" about the continuing and obscene problem of homelessness in our community. Conable's Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep had presented the council with a golden opportunity to begin to do something positive, constructive, even exemplary, about an issue that plagues not only our town, but the nation, in its post-Reagan nightmare. But council members could only see political risk. Their cowardice was shameful.

Correspondent M.M.'s dispatch breaks off here. Also present at the historic "Hobble the Homeless" session were Carolyn Abusin' Heart and her small coterie of "Take Back Our Town" companions, once more brightly arrayed in redshirts. Unlike July 4th and July 24th, when the Soquel hairdresser's legions were present in massive numbers, less than a dozen trolltrashers could be found in Council chambers. After several days of half-page newspaper ads urging a huge red-shirt turnout, the small pack of povertybashers struck a hearty pose and launched into their familiar litany against "violent drug abusers" and "the homeless-by-choice." However slim their numbers, the Busenhardt philosophy was victorious at the end of the evening--firmly in the driver's seat and wielding the mayor's gavel, though masked with time-tested liberal cant.

Politically-correct Coalition speakers and old-time homeless advocates alike urged the Gang loosen its reins on the throats of the homeless, but to no avail. Calamity Jane Imler was virtually alone in denouncing the River St. site as unsafe with freeway exhaust, cement dust, and old toxic waste being among the health hazards there.¹⁰

Also parading about the premises was a Klan-like figure styling himself "the Grand Gizzard" and sporting a "It Takes Courage to Attack the Homeless--At least I got guts!" sign. His loud cries of "Take Back our Talcum Powder" punctuated the evening

disaster shook complacent bureaucrats into opening the Armory, there are still no plans to open the Armory this year. Meanwhile at their Oct. 2 Gang meeting, the City's elected officials went ahead to okay an \$8 million dollar parking garage project to shelter vehicles--while human beings are told to become criminals or get out--over the angry but lonely objections of Bubbah Brian Koepke.

10 Elsewhere Calamity Jane suggested that the (cont. next page)

and attracted the attention of hovering media, who demanded to know if the masked intruder was serious. Insiders detected the flash of Bathrobespierre's Beards under the Imperial Gizzard's flowing red robes, but who could tell for sure?

MORE SANTA CRUZ STREET SOAPS

Nytol Quibblesnatch strikes again:

*****THE GUIDING LIGHT*****

It was not just another ordinary meeting of Miss Bliss's Committee for a Safe Way to Raise Money. The word from the city was bad, vagabonds were everywhere, and the doors were locked against the impending invasion. "Latch the screen door!" urged a cautious cavalier. And none too soon, for up the walk sauntered Jean Valjean and a band of beggars,

"Another interruption!" groaned the Exchequer, "how will we ever decide when to vote on whether to approve the preliminary minutes of the subcommittee on membership's last report?" "Ah, Marquis, you take the situation too lightly. This scoundrel is well-known in Paris as one who rouses the rabble with lies and free coffee." Miss Bliss stood a moment on her porch, then withdrew behind closed curtains, "Our process is being compromised here," she sighed, as she stretched her arms to the sky in silent supplication.

Outside on her porch, Valjean and company moved about restlessly, trolling for cigarettes, coffee, and somewhere to sleep. A few members of the court slipped outside past the locked gates to exchange hurried whispers with Valjean:

"You aren't wanted here," hissed the three MuskyMikes in unison. "No one enters beyond these gates who is not a true and loyal subject of Miss Bliss. She will lead us past your negative vibes to the promised campground. Thus hath she promised!"

"Nonsense!" cried an unbowed Valjean. "What has this woman done but belabor the air with sanctimonious sounds and strange calisthenics?"

"You lie, Valjean!" roared Morphuiette. "She has raised a \$10,000 ransom to free the enchanted sleepers and protect them from the clutches of the evil dragon Wormwood."

"And I," he added, breathless with fury, "I have urged that all commoners be made welcome here, so that they may see there is nothing amiss with her beneficence. Yet you inflame them with suspicion and sarcasm! She is our only hope against the dread Wormwood and her companion, the turgid Bureaucratosaurus!"

"But she has only parleyed with these beasts and stoked their hunger!" shouted Lark, a red-eyed urchin colorfully dressed in shreds and patches. "Yes!" shouted a mightily voice from within, "I can be silent no longer! You must open the gates and let the people in!"--it was one of the MuskyMikes breaking rank. "I know not what the deceived eyes of my brothers may see, but I

very choice of the River St. mini-Shelter backlot had predoomed the proposal. She wondered at the sense and sincerity of the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep, suggesting their real agenda may have been not to get a sanctuary at all, but to defuse real anger against the Sleeping Ban and solidify the "Progressives" before the election by removing the "homeless issue" as a point of contention.

know that Miss Bliss is blissed out!"

"Truly. 'Tis spawning season, and the beast and her consorts will soon migrate to Election Land, where they will hatch a new damned brood of clucking Hypocrites, eager to swallow our liberties and feed upon our slumbertime."

"Hush, Valjean, or you will alarm the respected dignitaries at their vespers within!" cautioned Cardinal Andre; "if you value your soul, you will allow our deliberations to proceed unhindered."

"We don't need no stinkin' containment camp!" screamed Lark, provoked to rage at the sight of the churchman's fine garments. "You all just want to control us and keep us out of sight."

The heated dialogue was interrupted then by a mournful howl from the darkness beyond the gates. All stopped to listen and at length could hear the whimper of Wormwood's victims. "Sleep, not talk!" was their pathetic cry. "Onward," roared Valjean, "we must go take notes!" And with that, he led his company forth to confront the bluebacked dragonspoor. And within the walls of Castle Conbull, the Court continued late into the night discussing weighty matters of much pomp and high procedure.

MAILBAG

Selective censorship shields the "politically correct"

(The following letter was printed in part by the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian on Oct. 3 under the heading "Let Them Camp." Notice that all parts of the letter dealing with the Coalition were snipped out, fundamentally altering and emasculating Mike's message. We reprint the entire letter as yet another public service!)

To the Editor:

Our City Council's rejection of a proposed camping sanctuary for homeless persons, despite wide and enthusiastic public support for the plan, clearly shows the futility of the consensus-building strategy of Sherry Conable and her Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep.

Council members have acknowledged Santa Cruz's urgent need for more affordable housing. In fact, the phrase "housing emergency" has been bandied about. Well, apparently the mayor and her heiress-apparent, Jane Yokoyama, are willing to talk about the problem as long as nobody expects them to do anything about it.

Similarly, the yuppie activists of Conable's Coalition prefer talk--meetings, press conferences, letter-writing--to effective action designed to bring home the seriousness of homelessness in Santa Cruz and in the nation as a whole. The Coalition has been effective in building support for a specific program, a campground.

Its members are silent, however, on the issue of expanding housing stock in the city and county. They are also silent on the camping ban. In recent Coalition meetings, homeless persons have been told to wait until after the election in November before bringing forward any other proposal. It sounds like there is some truth to the charge that the campground proposal was meant to pacify "homeless activists" before the election.

If the mayor and City Council remain unresponsive to the citizens they allegedly represent, and continue to refuse to do anything substantive about homelessness, even something as pitiful as the rejected temporary campground, they should repeal the

camping ban. The camping ban is unjust until and unless there is enough affordable housing for all citizens. If our elected officials refuse to deal with this crisis effectively, we should replace them. Hand-wringing speeches are not enough, whether they are given by city officials or well-meaning liberals.

The only rights are those we create for ourselves

(The following letter was sent to the Santa Cruz Sentinel but, needless to say, never saw print. Judith was recently in court for sleeping out at the Post Office with the homeless last November; she ran a sanctuary for several months that provided all-night coffee.)

Dear Editor:

Everywhere you look, all over the world, people are reclaiming their freedom from Moscow to Johannesburg. But in Santa Cruz, the city council is doing its impression of the Election Eve Stall.

Look how the Council is treating the very modest proposal to give homeless campers a legal place to sleep on the outskirts of town. It's temporary; it's an emergency; it's being paid for by private funds. It's on a parcel of land in back of a shelter purchased with federal "homeless funding."

Why not? The council has been ignoring, gagging, and arresting homeless rights demonstrators for years rather than deal with the sleep issue. Our progressive Council wants to demonstrate their obstructive power once more by strangling the plan. Mayor Wormhoudt still doesn't believe the Short-Term Housing coalition when it tells her there aren't enough beds. Believe it, Mayor, and end the camping ban!

Meanwhile, the liberals behind this plan have been doing their bit to break up unsightly homeless demonstrations that might threaten "progressive" successors. They've turned the homeless rights movement against itself by barring activist Robert Norse from its meetings and turning him away from the Free Meal for being "too political."

It's largely because of Norse's politics and the Homeless Table that we have any talk at all about a sanctuary. Folks who should know better are trusting a few johnny-come-lately liberal experts who think if they only say "please" and expel the loudmouths, the politicians will jump on board.

These tactics stink, and they don't work for the homeless--only against them. Divide the group and we turn on each other. Saddest of all is that the homeless people are falling for this stuff. We need rights not crumbs. And that's not going to come out of the generosity of politicians or the elitism of "politically correct" leaders. We've got to do it ourselves. However dirty the job or long the struggle. They did it in Santa Barbara. They did it in Oakland. The only rights we're going to get are those we create for ourselves.

Sincerely,
Judith Beinert

STILL MORE SANTA CRUZ STREET SOAPS

A Final Thrust from the Loins of

Nytol Quibblesnatch:

*****THE YOUNG AND THE SLEEPLESS*****

Everyone arrived on time at high-noon for the big meeting of the two rival gangs, the Yups and the Demos. The participants

gathered warily in a large circle on neutral turf with Gentleman George keeping a wary lookout for trouble. The preliminaries went smoothly as the two gangs agreed that something had to be done about Madam Mardi's recent takeover of the Sleeping Rackets.

Big Janie said it all: "We gotta let bygones be bygones or these downtown creeps will pick us off one by one. What we need is One Big Union and then our organization can make 'em squirm." Several rough voices from both gangs spoke up in favor of Janie's plan, but then trouble broke out.

Cabrillo Curly, one of the Yups' main mouthpieces, fingered Demo cheftain Bobby ("The Paper Boy"), and accused him of bringing the heat down on everyone on the street by planning to rub out Madam Mardi's Wiseguys in broad daylight near the River St. hideout. "That's conspiracy, you clown," hissed Bugeyes, an ex-Demo who had joined the Yups and was now one of their main honchos. "You gonna get the feds down on our case!"

"Yeah, they gonna shut down our operation, asshole," spat Slamdunk, a tall lanky Yup.

"Who told you that shit?" growled Gentleman George.

"I seen the secret papers," burped Bugeyes. "Now if you don't back off, we'll carry you off in a pine box."

Rival cries of "Die, Yup scum!" and "No more polite talk!" by the Demos and "More meetings!" by the Yups suddenly filled the air.

In the midst of the shouting, Blondie, a Yup chick, tried to bring peace to the gathering by getting everyone to hold hands, but a Demo broad, Loonie Linda, screamed that she didn't want any part of "that peace and love shit; you just stop fuckin' with Paperboy--that's all! It's all the crank you been dolin' out, Blondie, been turnin the Yups' brains into mush."

"You've muscled in in our turf, Paper Boy!" Bugeyes started in again. "I don't like manifestoes with my meatloaf, get it? And if I lose my mushbucket, I can get real crazy."

"Yeah, my belly says you're tryin to shut down our operation, Paperboy," snarled Pitbull, who had already taken a bite out of Paperboy in a previous encounter.

"We've had a bellyful of you, Bugsie," screamed Loonie Linda, rising to confront the gnarled Yup.

"Yeah, Paper Boy," said another Yup, the gnomelike Moondog. "All your writing almost got me into a fight with Jeeberweeber! It's closedown time."

"You better back off, Paper Boy, 'cause we don't like you messin' with our people, and we don't like how you got Hippie Chick freaked out when you showed up at her private picnic," warned Slamdunk.

"Leave Paper Boy alone!" shouted Snaggletooth, a heavyweight Demo with a reputation for fancy writing. "Why can't you Yups see that Blondie and Hippie Chick are working for Mardi and the Man? They ain't our friends, and they ain't yours either!"

But the peace was broken and no one was listening.

"Here's a big fat subpoena for ya, Paperboy," shouted Bugeyes triumphantly. "Now you come back to our hideout, and you will go up the river for good!"

Everyone stalked off, but the gang war was on.

Will Rhett protect Scarlett from Big Bad Bruce? Will the cement dust keep seasoning the soup? What about the Many Mikes? Can Valjean fight the bluebellied sleepbusters alone? Who

gets the ransom money now that the Bureaucratasaurus is loose?
Will Bugeyes go off again? Can the River St. gang stop Paper
Boy's "deliveries"?

Tune in to the next *Street Shit Sheet* for the answers.

COURTROOM KUNG FUDDY

*****WIN ONE, LOSE ONE was the boxscore for Bathrobespierre Robert in Mulligan's Marshlands down in Dept. F. On Tuesday morning, the aging activist found himself slated for a bench warrant for not appearing to answer a year-old camping ticket dated Oct. 15, which mysteriously popped up on the court docket.

That afternoon not to be nabbed napping twice, Bathrobespierre was ready and eager to fight a "hitchhiking" ticket given him minutes after being released from jail July 5. Hauled away for refusing to give his birthdate and social security number a Homeless Table sleep-in the night before, the wayward jailbird was thumbing his way home from the courthouse busstop when he got bagged by Officer Vogel on direct orders from the sharp-eyed Deputy Chief Bartle, himself. [see *Street Shit Sheet* #75, p. 3.]

But when Showdown Time came, Officer Vogel asked to approach the bench and confided to Grinning Ray Grueneich, Maddog Mulligan, and Bathrobespierre himself that he himself had not seen the roadway crime. "I'm not a liar," the uniformed officer informed lawyer and client in the hall afterwards; "if you're dirty, I'll get you, but when you're clean, you're clean." And with Bartle himself unwilling to waste valuable time in court pursuing roadway rascals, Norse was free again for "lack of prosecution" to stick out his thumb. Watch for him on a thoroughfare near you.

*****OUT OF JAIL, OUT OF TROUBLE? Could it be freedom at last for Jabberwocky Jay--finally released from the hoosegow September 30th after more than a month behind bars for felonious catnapping after dark? Judge Kangaroo Kelly has reportedly promised the elfin activist amnesty for the bogus Public Nuisance citations he's been fighting in court since January if he continues complete dissociation from the dreaded post office Homeless Table with its pile of unsightly backpacks and sleeping bags. Linda the Lark Edwards, on the other hand, is reportedly seeking a speedy trial rather than a deal on the issue--and will take the matter to jury as soon as she can get her public defenders to return her phone calls.

COALITION CONTORTIONS

(Straight from the secret chambers of Sherry Conable's living room comes this report on the latest meeting of the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep and its plans to powderpuff the sleeping ban to death.)

@@@@ SANDRA LORANGER'S FAST WAS IN ITS 12TH DAY and the Coalition found itself unable to agree on definitive and official support for her. After at least two press conferences informally supporting her, the Coalition drew back from officially signing on the dotted line for fear that her activity was too sensational. The image-conscious Coalition coterie did agree to write a press

statement, but not to endorse her strike, for fear of being blamed for prolonging Sandy's fast.¹¹

@@@@ HAVING LOCKED OUT 3 HOMELESS WOMEN the week before as well as unrepentant badboy Bathrobespierre Robert, the Coalition once more considered its "membership and guests" policies. Up for consideration was a plan to allow only "established members" free access to the Coalition's inner sanctum while "guests" would be subject to a "consensus" vote behind closed doors (that is, one anonymous person could blackball any "undesirable"). The resolution was mercifully tabled, but the exclusionary policy remains since Sherry Conable continues to rule the roost and hold the exclusive gatherings in her house. Is this a country club or a homeless coalition? Need we ask?

@@@@ OPPOSE NEAL COONERTY FOR SLEEPBUSTING SYMPATHIES? Never! Always seeking to view politicians in a positive light, Sharin' Sherry reportedly vetoed a plan to publicly oppose Booktent Santa Cruz City Council candidate's election bid¹². "Moxie" Margaret Marr, pro-homeless attorney recently turned legal locksmith¹³, angrily demanded Coonerty be brought to book for his "no sanctuary for sleepers" stance. But Sherry blocked "the consensus" with her time-honored wisdom: Better to look on the positive side--and, incidentally, not split the SCAN/"Progressive" vote. No newcomer to the twisted trails of local politics, savvy Sherry managed the successful 1988 City Council candidacy of homeless hopesmasher Mo Reich¹⁴. After all,

11 The 1985 and 1986 hunger strikes of Jane Imler and others are credited respectively with opening the first homeless shelter on Cedar St. and facilitating the purchase of the River St. mini-Shelter. Imler was denounced as a "terrorist" during those fasts and actually made an FBI list, by her report. Apparently the Coalition prefers a more discreet and "non-confrontational" approach. As does Sandy herself, it must be confessed.

12 Coonerty is soon to be featured in a forthcoming expose in a new homeless publication Watcha Want. The "bookstore tycoon/earthquake video starlet" (as W.W. editor terms him) will be the subject of W.W.'s merciless curbside expose revealing his role with Darkness Santa Cruz backing the notorious Checkpoint Mardi plan to transform Santa Cruz into the Gray Greed Galleria of the 90s (more inaccessible planters, jagged bricks, no benches, an armed shopper-helper on every corner).

13 Marr reportedly advised locking Norse out of the Coalition and the Free Meal through threatening trespass suits.

14 During the campaign, Reich promised a moratorium on sleeping tickets in return for a suspension of demonstrations, then promptly refused to meet with homeless advocates after election. Little has been seen of Mo since he sent a "fuck you" valentine to the pompous Scotts Valley mayor and then publicly lied about it--prompting his resignation. One silver lining to the affair was that Reich's sordid treatment of the homeless was followed by the advent of Catherine Beiers, who was appointed in his place. Beiers, though the newest Council member, has proven the most outspoken on homeless issues.

the homeless are an election eve issue, but a successful politician in office is a joy forever!

@@@@ SLEEP-IN AT TUESDAY'S GANG OF 7 GOOSESTEP?

In the wake of troubled consciences in the Coalition and growing grumbling from the homeless without, the Coalition actually authorized a study of the possibility. Don't hold your breath. As of Sunday Oct. 7, one member of the "Action Subcommittee" reports nary a whisper from the get-tough gang that plans to make the City Council anxious if not nervous after its recent "go west!" decision on the homeless campground.

SNITCH'S REPORT: A turncoat homeless man (Sore Throat) filed this report from Conableland: "The only thing the Coalition can agree on is that there should be a campground. They can't agree on whether to make a statement of moral principle, whether to endorse candidates, anything. I was a bit taken aback by Brian Koepke's role as a leader in trying to adopt the exclusionary membership policy. Even as it became clear that there was no consensus on the policy as written, Brian insisted that it be adopted as a temporary guideline until the next meeting.

"Since the Coalition's inception, its leaders have been fumbling around to find suitable words to ensure that Robert Norse is barred from its meetings, whatever the wishes of individual members to open up the meetings. It would probably be a good idea to go back to meeting in a public place--something I thought had already been agreed to, but still the meetings continue to take place in private."

MEMO FROM THE MENTAL PATIENT'S LIBERATION FRONT

(John Telfair is an ex-inmate and advocate for the rights of those detained in psychiatric prisons and/or stigmatized by psychiatric labels. His group the Mental Patients Liberation Front can be reached at 426-3201, as long as the money for his phone bill holds out.)

*****John T. tells us he's been visiting Dominican Hospital psychiatric ward several times a week to comfort and advise different patients as a personal as well as MPLF service. Six months ago he found the ward had been strapping patients to chairs as a form of punishment or, perhaps, therapy. He filed complaint with the state Advocacy and Protection Agency in Oakland protesting the practice, which apparently ceased for a time thereafter.

In the last week however, three women have been bound to chairs--a fact he took note of as they shunted him off to the secluded visitor's area, eager that he not be allowed contact with folks on the ward generally.

*****John also reports that officials from the state licensing board have been lurking around his house, trying to charge him with running an illegal board and care home because he provides a private sanctuary for some psychiatric victims. "Is there adequate supervision here," the roaming bureaucrats asked. "That's a word I don't like," shot back John, "we're all equal here."

COMING NEXT ISSUE: More Soap Operas!...Real-life reports on whether the Coalition or anyone else brought their sleeping bags to City Council on Oct. 9. On-the-spot photos of Bathrobespierre Robert being dragged from the Free Meal to jail....And, as always, your postcards and letters. Be there.

STREET SHEET

#79

October 13, 1990

Saturday

Houseless price: 5c All others: 25c Or borrow & return!

"For the poor of this world, two major ways of expiring are available: either by the absolute indifference of your fellows in peace-time, or by the homicidal passion of these same when war breaks out!"

--Louis-Ferdinand Celine. *Journey to the end of the Night* (1932)

LATE FLASHES!

HOMELESS WOMEN TAKE NOTE!

TODAY, SATURDAY OCT. 13, "TAKE BACK THE NIGHT" WILL MARCH AT 7 P.M. FROM PACIFIC AND CATHCART TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN TO TRAVEL FREELY AND SAFELY AT NIGHT.

COME AND ASK MAYOR WORMHOUDT--WHO WILL ADDRESS THE GROUP--IF THERE IS A RIGHT TO SLEEP AT NIGHT AS WELL AS TO WALK! IF NOT, TAKE BACK THE NIGHT AND WORMHOUDT WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN YOU IN YOUR NIGHTLY SLEEPWALK TO ENSURE SAFETY AND RAISE SPIRITS!

ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE MEALYMOUTHS! ASK THE POLS WHY THEY'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE RIGHT TO SLEEP NOW!

7:30 P.M. MONDAY OCT. 15, CANDIDATES FORUM BY THE LESBIAN AND GAY ACTION ALLIANCE AT LOUDEN NELSON CENTER

LORANGER FAST ENTERS 19TH DAY WITH NO RESPONSE FROM CITY HALL

SLEEPBUSTERS SWOOP DOWN ON HOMELESS NEAR RIVER ST. SHELTER

Her voice softer but still determined, homeless advocate "Slyshoes"¹ Sandy Loranger reappeared in public last week staffing a table at the County Courthouse and downtown near the Food Pavilion to urge a legal place to sleep after 11 p.m. for the Santa Cruz homeless. The diminutive faster also put in a silent appearance at last Tuesday's Gang of 7 Gab-and-Gobble² session

WIZARD OF



1 So called because of her successful foodsmuggling activities in the spring of 1989 during the police siege of the Town Clock Meal. Loranger and Calamity Jane Imler, with the help of dozens of criminal kitchen helpers, streetside soupserver, and sympathetic onlookers, fed the hungry each day at 4 p.m. at the cost of tickets, arrests, and a three-week stay in jail for Sandy. The food moll's monicker came from her use of disguises to avoid being served a preliminary restraining order against feeding the homeless.

The Injunctabeast eventually cornered her, however, and was spotted again last month near the County Courthouse, when health officials approached Campground Coffee Giveaway, organized to honor Jabberwalky Jay Green and his month-in-jail-for-sleep. Close it down or we'll be back "with the Injunction"--was the newest threat.

2 City Council is known to bleary-eyed critics as The Gang of 7, of course, although 2 of the 7 (Don Lane and Catherine Beiers) now actively support the right to sleep at night in spite of the ongoing 11 p.m. - 8:30 a.m. Sleeping Ban. (cont. next page)

where the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep (CSPS)³ made another decorous effort to appeal to the conscience, wisdom, and common sense of the Gang's "no sleep in Santa Cruz" majority [see following story].

Taking in only fruit juice, the 90 lbs.-and-dropping hunger striker reported increased weariness and weakness, but as of Oct 16, was still able to drive a vehicle to the Business Forum for City Council Candidates. None of the herd of political predators--including SCAN-backed Neal Coonerty and "liberal" Scott Kennedy--mentioned Sandy's ongoing demonstration: the only significant response from the community to the Council's abrupt execution of the Coalition's "Sanctuary for Sleepers" proposal last month.

HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) and the Coalition have both given different forms of support to Loranger's fast. HUFF's street flyers urge citizens to call City Hall (429-3550), the Board of Supervisors (425-2201), and the Police (429-Department (429-3700) in support of Sandy's three objectives.⁴ The CSPS has held several press conferences and provided the fasting activist with personal support.

Aggressive demonstrations demanding city response to the Sleeping Ban Scandal continue to be spotty or non-existent. JUST (Join Us, Sleep Tonight), a group whose meetings provoked controversy at the Free Meal in August, did hold a morning Campground Coffee at City Hall protest daily for a week to "wake up the bureaucrats" and incidentally warm homeless bellies. The CSPS with dozens of supporters and thousands of dollars is reportedly considering "a response" but not before October 25th at the earliest, apparently dissatisfying some of its members, who believed that an immediate reaction to the Gang's Sept. 25th homeless-roasting was necessary, appropriate, and timely.

Rumors of a return of the Northern California groups supporting Homeless Independence Day July 4th, and a Rainbow Family Thanksgiving gathering in solidarity, could not be confirmed but continued to circulate. Divisions between local organizers continued to make any unified response uncertain, though anger at the City Council's callousness and indifference to community sentiment remained strong at presstime.

Meanwhile back on the frontlines, homeless sleepers experienced a taste of Progressive police procedures when Mardi's Mashers descended on a group of homeless people trying to sleep.

3 The Coalition continues to stir amusement from some and amazement from others at its continuing exclusionary membership and guest policies, which have divided homeless activists and supporters. (Bathrobespierre Robert and Calamity Jane continue to be personae non gratae as of this writing.)

CSPS is alternately known as the Coalition for a Safe Place to Meet for shifting its semi-secret meetings from one private house to another; the Coalition for a Safe Place to Weep for moaning-but-not-demonstrating after the Council's hasty burial of the Sanctuary plan; and the Coalition for a Safe Way to Make Money for its top-dictated decision to establish a costly non-homeless administrative position.

- 4 (i) no new tickets until there's a legal place to sleep;
(ii) negotiations with the homeless as equal participants;
(iii) a civilian police commission;*

On Thursday Oct. 11, at the very site of the vetoed sanctuary area back of the River St. mini-Shelter, police raided an area where 20 or more people were sleeping outside. Reportedly instigated by the rantings of a "wingnut" who directed the attention of the police, Officer "Bums Away" Baker led his loyal law enforcers on a successful 4 a.m. thuggee assault. Eight to eleven people received \$138 "camping" tickets (no fires, no tents, just sleeping people on the ground), and an equal number fled in disarray.

Rueful Rebecca, 6 months pregnant, was one who escaped the dragnet. She had not gone into the shrunken Satellite Shelter program because she needed the support and company of her boyfriend (a no-no in the church-sponsored shelters). The Satellite Shelter program is not slated to expand until November 1, when it will again resume for 75-90 people nightly on a first-come, first-serve basis.

DOWNTOWN GANG COLD TO COALITION PLEA FOR SANCTUARY REHEARING
HOMELESS ADVOCATES DEMAND RETURN OF MALL BENCHES TO SIDEWALK

The largest and best organized group of speakers yet-- many from the CSPS-- filed up one-by-one to the City Council microphone October 9th to present a succinct and "unconfrontational" plea for homeless sleeping rights. But Gangleader⁵ Wormhoudt took special time to quash CSPS hopes. Sanctuary proposal writer Nora H. asked the Gang to reconsider the Sanctuary proposal so that they might have a chance to put the specific questions that Wormhoudt claimed were "unanswered."⁶

Wormhoudt quickly responded that bringing back the plan would require at least 5 of the Gang's 7 votes--a novel interpretation as well as an unlikely prospect. The City Attorney, recently notorious for wasting city money defending an ordinance requiring permits for "non-commercial events", i.e. free speech, declared himself uncertain on the question, but few were betting he'd cross the mayor.

Moue-Master Mardi⁷ then listened impatiently while "Moxie" Margaret Marr proposed a compromise change in the current Sleeping Ban, allegedly based on Mardi's own spoken concerns,

5 *Or Mayor, as the title-conscious Earthquake Empress insists on reminding us,*

6 *Using that claim as one of her reasons, at the previous Council meeting Wormhoudt had voted down the Sanctuary. However, CSPS critics later noted, the iron Mistress of Manners hadn't bothered to direct a single question to any of the many CSPS members present before cutting the plan's throat "with appreciation." The Progressive First Lady said later she'd asked all her questions two weeks before.*

Smiling spectators suggested rather that she'd made all her decisions three years before and was trying to spruce up her predetermined agenda with a few tasteful rationalizations. Old-timers shook their heads and noted Mardi Wormhoudt seemed mired in concrete--even in the face of serious community opposition, from organizations and individuals who had supported her own election.

7 *Moue: (pronounced moo) A grimace expressive of petulance, dissatisfaction, or the like. Mardi's annoyance with homeless speakers is legendary. She altered her practice of munching food during homeless speeches, but continues to stare elsewhere restlessly.*

that would mandate tickets only on specific complaint with a particular health and safety concern, if there were some other legal place to sleep. "Either a complaint, or a health and safety concern, and I said nothing about a safe place to sleep," Wormhoudt retorted.

When Wormhoudt then moved to amputate Marr's speech, the attempt dissolved in a gale of scornful but spontaneous laughter from Gingersnap George, Bathrobespierre Robert, and other sans-coulottes in the cheap seats, familiar with the muzzlin' Mayor's past history of gagging the homeless at Oral Communications.⁸

Back on the Mall, Linda the Lark's Metro Homeless Table has been faced with repeated harassment from "cattleherding"⁹ cops who have been issuing infraction citations to folks sitting on the brick planter surfaces. The City Parks and Recreation Dept. has torn out three or four benches from the two-block area around the Catalyst/Metro on Pacific Ave. in the last few weeks. Merchant complaints and backroom pressure have apparently prompted this continuation of the Wormhoudt-Laird Mall Defoliation plan¹⁰,

Grumpy greyhairs from local tourist traps and scapegoat-seeking shopkeepers (such as the Union Grove Music crew who authorized police arrests for those bold enough to lean against their parking lot fence¹¹) apparently prefer armed force to inclusive discussions. They apparently initiated this latest plan to deprive "undesireables" of the right to sit--now that their politician proxies have already successfully stripped from them their right to sleep.

In response to this new obscenity, Linda has been circulating a petition demanding that benches be returned so that the citizenry could rest its backside without fear of yet another backlash from their friendly police. She seeks to counter the secret pressure tactics of those who deplore the countercultural and homeless street ragamuffins daring to socialize outside their sacred establishments. Interested in signing? Leave a message for Linda at 427-1205. Or join her at the Metro homeless table on Pacific usually between Cathcart and Elm.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Dr. Geri Rose's "Who Sleeps Daily in Santa Cruz?"--the poem that pinched the Council in the privates; More letters from displaced homeless activists; More hotly-awaited soap opera sagas from the streets; News clips on the Free Meal Ceasefire...if and when your editor comes out of hiding.

⁸ At Wormhoudt's initiative this spring, public input time was cut to 30 minutes with new anti-homeless rules added.

⁹ Cattleherding is the term used by Sgt. Bob Hennig to describe policies towards "undesirables" on the mall in a May report to the Downtown Association Block Captains meeting.

¹⁰ See "Petition Opposing the Proposed Pacific Garden Mall 'Renovation'" 8/9/90. This "sweep away the streetpeople" project was initiated months before the earthquake and is now being carried forward by Vision SantaCruz and John Laird's bureaucrat-heavy Social Problems Task Force (which has no homeless or street people on its membership).

¹¹ The famous Forbidden Fence, fabled in song and Street Shit Sheet, against which it is a misdemeanor to lean.

STREET SHEET

#80

January 18, 1991

Friday

"....we are soupcans in trembling hands
and the small change of a spring
night in the America of sorrows...."
from "Underground" in *The Bottom Line* (1988)
by Jack Hirschman

LINDA THE LARK BUSTED IN FIRST POST-WAR PEACE DEMO ARREST HENNIG ORDERS ACTIVIST JAILED FOR AIDING HARASSMENT VICTIMS

A generally subdued police reaction to street protests was not extended to activist Linda Edwards Thursday afternoon (12/17) when she found herself the second Persian Gulf war prisoner, complements of her old nemesis Sgt. Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig. Edwards, a militant homeless and peace activist, had been involved in numerous prior peaceful but civil disobedient demonstrations including the Highway 17 blockade on January 16th, the Capitola recruiting-center shutdowns (mid-November, Jan. 17th), and numerous vigils at the Town Clock.

By her report around 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the 17th, she and other protesters at the Town Clock were forcibly driven from a street blockade of Water St. Shortly thereafter two motorcycle cops stopped two women in a van driving North on Water/Mission St. apparently for the "crime" of excessive enthusiasm in supporting the blockaders with a timely hand-given peace sign. [A prominent local attorney observed two motorcycle officers stopping another van near the courthouse around the same time in what he suggested was a similar action.]

When Linda, Genial Gene, Whiplash Windy, and a dozen others went over to observe the police action and offer support to the women, they were told by an unidentified male officer with his billy club raised, "cross this line, and we bust your head." After the police had released the two women, the determined activist moved to speak with them and was seized by Hennig and two other officers who informed her she was under arrest for "blocking the street," the only person so charged.²

After initial reports that she was being held on \$60 bail until court the next day, the jail released the defiant protester on her own recognizance several hours later. Edwards divided her scorn between the police and those she termed "do-nothing liberals"--noting that the police were "doing their usual harassment trip," but the "damn liberals were screaming 'non-violence' at us for doing non-violent but direct things to stop business-as-usual."

[Numerous activists were upset and angered at the "go home and come back tomorrow" outcome of the huge County building rally Thursday night, orchestrated by liberal politicians and some UCSC student leaders, who monopolized the microphone at the courthouse. Later at the Town Clock a much smaller group of demonstrators carried out a successful blockade of Highway 17 that the liberal whizkids had earlier vetoed.]

¹ Hennig won his nickname from his grim enthusiasm in harassing the homeless in and out of court last year, his gratuitous expeditions against the Post Office homeless table, his physical attack on activist Morpheus Mike Hobson (cont. next page)

***** BACKFIRES FROM THE BOULEVARDS *****

***** A WHITEWASH FOR "DON'T FUCK WITH ME" Sgt. David St. Onge's assault on sometime homeless activist Raucous Rocky Stone in a year-old December 1989 case. The two-day jury trial of Stone ended in a sentence of 5 days in jail and 2 years court probation from the generous gavel of Muni Court Judge Robert "Artichoke Heart" Atack.

Atack, previously notorious as the first in the nation to jail an activist for serving food to the homeless,² did permit testimony from activist-attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich. The barebones barrister repeated a charge he had made publicly before City Council in the spring of 1989 when he indicted St.

last May for "criminal leaning" (against the Union Grove Music parking lot fence) and his quaint paternal references to city property as his own ("get off my street"). On January 17, Hennig was dubbed "No Drums" by Town Clock peace vigilers, for driving away street drummers, who were, Hennig reportedly commented, beating out a rhythm "waking people as far away as Baghdad."

2 The first Persian Gulf protester arrested by our reckoning was Troy Gibbons in a Vet's March on the afternoon of January 15th the day before the Bush war began. Gibbons was one of several dozen high school students who blocked Mission and Hiway 1 for several minutes.

Sgt. "Goofy" Aluffi, formidable in his reputation for impromptu and inappropriate anger, reportedly drove his squad car towards the demonstrators to encourage them to leave. Witnesses complained at the police station afterwards that he slammed Gibbons on the hood of his squad car before hauling him off. Gibbons faces misdemeanor "resisting arrest" charges and, in an unusual move, was held in jail an extra day for "inadequate ID."

Persian Gulf Coalition anti-war liberals, busy arguing about politically correct language for their anti-war resolutions were unable or unwilling to raise the \$500 bail necessary to free Gibbons at their Tuesday night meeting, frustrating some of Gibbons' supporters who had seen the issue as one of solidarity.

3 Atack [pronounced "attic"] was secretly awarded the Mumpsimus-Chichevache citation by the Street Shit Sheet for allowing the outrageous charges in his court in the first place, sentencing Loranger to jail in the second, and smearing her with falsehoods lifted from the local Santa Cruz Urinal (aka Sentinel) about "dangerous foreign matter" in her soup. There have been threats, but no further prosecutions against 'soup servers' since the summer of 1989.

Mumpsimus A person who refuses to correct an error, habit or practice even though it has been shown to be wrong. It comes from a pigheaded 16th century priest who always said "mumpsimus" when reciting the mass even though he had been shown many times that "sumpsimus" was correct. The error that Atack declined to correct was the political harassment of Loranger under color of "health" concerns. He has never publicly apologized for this travesty.

Chichevache A medieval monster, said to have fed on the flesh of virtuous women.

for his abusive use of "pain-compliance" hold enthusiasm in the February 1989 UCSC/Homeless demo against the Sleeping Ban at the Town Clock.⁴

But the jury apparently dismissed Grueneich's grim tale, as well as disregarding eye-witness testimony from homeless activist Bubbah Brian Koepke that Rocky was tracked down and assaulted on December 4, 1989 in an ongoing police program against the Post Office Homeless Table. [The bizarre assault reportedly involved a police officer throwing down a pair of glasses on the street and St. Onge demanding of Rocky "did you do that?" followed by St. Onge's attack.]

***** INNOCENCE THROUGH UNCONSCIOUSNESS produced a "Not Guilty" verdict for Linda the Lark Edwards from the lawbook of Traffic Court Referee "Maddog" John Mulligan last week. Charged by mail⁵ with "misusing a public structure," or--in this case-- "brick-molesting" (see *Street Shit Sheet #79*), Linda's Metro Homeless Table had been the kindly focus of SCPD-led calisthenics as Linda was forced to jump up from her seat on the brick planter every time a cop happened by to avoid violating the newly-discovered "law" against "sitting on the bricks." Combined with City Park and Rec's removal of downtown benches to combat the "homeless/street people menace," the "rest your bum, pay a fine" tactic was another weapon in the arsenal of Sgt. Hennig's behavior modification squad, which includes bicyclists, dog-walkers, and skateboarders among its recent targets.

At her lengthy non-jury trial before Maddog in December, attorney Grueneich argued the ordinance was unconstitutionally vague and that Linda was not violating it anyway (since behavior that was "customary and traditional" such as sitting on the bricks was specifically permitted).

Maddog, after hearing testimony that law-flaunting "brick-sitting" was widely-practiced among Santa Cruz yuppies, tourists, and pariah groups alike and inspecting front-page *Sentinel* photographs of city officials posing on the bricks, retreated into one of his classic Catch-22 stances: he offered to consider the legal argument involved in chambers later, but only if Edwards would give up her right to be present at the verdict and at sentencing.

4 *"Don't Fuck With Me" has acquired some notoriety among the homeless: for his famous chokehold captured in photo by a Register-Pajaronian photographer against "No Guns" Antoinette Radici in the first food arrests in December 1988 in front of City Hall; for his "box-kicking" and body shoving contest with "Judge Me Not" Joe Parker in the spring of 1990; and his tainted testimony in the "no demonstrating permit" prosecution of Jason Schwartz last fall.*

5 *Edwards was not cited at the scene, though Officer James spent half an hour threatening to do so, because others present, outraged at the harassment, demanded they too be cited for "criminal sitting." Additionally Edwards indicated an interest in going to jail rather than embarrass herself by singing such a ridiculous ticket. Instead, prosecutors sent her a notice in the mail--duplicating the practice followed by police in the spring of 1989 after citing and/or arresting people for serving food to the homeless became politically unpopular.*

Caught off guard, Edwards waived her rights, and Mulligan responded weeks later with an unusual "not guilty" verdict. His action, he later noted, was not taken on constitutional grounds, but rather because the ordinance's legitimate concern was with "damaging plants." Some were further cheered by word that Mulligan would be notifying "appropriate agencies" by letter of his new standard for accepting thinly-disguised police harassment. Our advice: have a camera or a witness with you to testify you didn't damage the shrubs. And hope that Maddog believes your word rather than that of Hennig's Honchos.

***** AN OCCASIONAL EAR & TONGUE ON THE CITY COUNCIL?
For the homeless, that is. Maybe so, but keep your powder dry. In spite of a media blackout on the "criminal sitting" issue [see letter to *City on a Hill Press*, p. 4.] Bathrobespierre Robert Norse and Bubbah Brian successfully brought the matter of bench removal and "brick-crime" before the Somnolent Seven^o at their mid-December City Council meeting. Councilmember Kennedy startled observers by asking Council staff for a report on the AWOL seats. If and when Bush's Desert Adventure is ended by a fed-up citizenry, we might see the new Council member turn his attention to other festering homeless issues (the absence of public toilets downtown, the need for civilian police review, and the importance of legalizing sleeping for the poor). Informed at press time the overdue staff report has been retrieved from the catacombs and mailed our way, the *Street Shit Sheet* will reveal its stunning secrets next issue!

***** DISMISSED! DISMISSED! DISMISSED! was the long overdue outcome of months-old misdemeanor charges against Linda the Lark in early January. Perhaps prompted by the activist's determination to take each case to jury trial, the prosecution decided to spare us the time and spectacle of watching Linda defend herself for (a) going in to buy a cup of coffee at Ocean St. Denny's in February ("trespass"); (b) trying to disentangle herself from an officer who'd instructed her to leave ("interfering with an officer") during an anti-Hennig demonstration last May, and (c) interrupting a bigot during a July 24th City Council meeting ("disrupting an assembly").

Also freed from the coils of justice was July 4th Homeless Independence Day organizer Bathrobespierre Robert. The court apparently decided not to buy the "resisting arrest" prosecution for Norse's refusal to give his birthdate and social security number at a demonstration July 5th protesting the City's loathed 11 p.m. - 8:30 a.m. Sleeping Ban.

5 Or the seven City Councilors. Previously known as the Gang of 7 under the leadership of Wormhoudt and Laird, their new membership (Kennedy, Coonerty, and Rittenhouse) has yet to take any action, or make any substantive comment on proposals for police review, a revision of the sleeping ban, or any of the other homeless issues that marked the fall election campaign. The 5-2 Progressive majority continues to have the power to legalize sleeping somewhere in the city for those without houses, but has declined to do so.

***** DUELING DEFENDERS IN THE QUEST TO REIN IN THE COPS are Margaret Marr's Coalition for a Civilian Police Review Commission (CCPRC) and Bathrobespierre Robert's Stop Police Abuse Now! (SPAN). Marr's group continues to hold "organizational" meetings in search of a "consensus" for the ideal police review board. Her group has done extensive research about such boards in other cities and countries, called on ACLU head John Crew from S.F. to advice, and continues to debate details behind closed doors. Info: call Marr at 427-1774.

Barred from CCPRC meetings by Marr and impatient with the snail's pace of the group's proceedings, Bathrobespierre has formed SPAN with the intention of (a) publicizing and assisting anyone in filing police complaints and claims against the city, (b) organizing a *Copwatch Santa Cruz* along the lines of Berkeley's successful program, and (c) setting up a hotline to report police abuse (currently 475-2012). Bathrobespierre has invited CCPRC to pool energies but initial contacts have yielded little cooperation. Given the current crisis, it's time to pull together.

***** SHELTER PROGRAM BULGING, POLICE HARASSMENT UNEVEN ...are the messages from Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program direct Andrew Morin and A Free Meal site manager Bubbah Brian. Morin notes his program, taking nearly 100 people a night in Santa Cruz is near capacity and finding more homelessness than ever before this time of the year. Brian reports Sleeping Ban tickets are down around Santa Cruz, but harassment for homeless campers near the Emiline St. complex continues unabated. For those seeking occasional shelter from rains and cold in the tents on the Free Meal property, others say, apparently the only steady static has come from River St. mini-Shelter bureaucrats across the road.

***** OBEDIENT JURORS ONLY! was the word from Muni Court Judge Linda Morse's court some weeks back, according to Antoinette "No Guns" Radici. Called to serve on a jury panel, No Guns corrected Morse on a fundamental matter and was discharged from the jury panel for her courage. Morse demanded that jurors follow the law as she interpreted. "No Guns" responded she would consider her conscience as well as the letter-of-the-law in her decision. The flashpoint: do jurors have a right to decide on the meaning and justice of the law as well as the bare facts of the case?

Jurors as ultimate guardians of justice have the obligation to decide what is right and fair, and whether a defendant--regardless of the machinations of legislature, police, district attorney, and judge--deserves to be punished. This right

6 Marr's determination to exclude Bathrobespierre from her group apparently stemmed from her previous membership on the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep, a group of well-intentioned but ineffectual liberals, who adopted a similar policy of excluding him and other "unacceptable radicals." Marr worked closely with Bathrobespierre in her spirited defense of Homeless Table cases last spring and summer, but turned against him with a vengeance when he attacked the CSPA's elitist admissions policy and "no demonstrations" stance.

Marr also publicly denounced Morse for continuing to frequent A Free Meal and distribute homeless rights literature there after management claims that he was imperiling their lease (see *Street Shit Sheet* ##77, 78).

to acquit--jury nullification--has been an unchallenged power of the jury for over three hundred years [since Bushell's Case (1670)], but judges refuse to allow defense attorneys to so instruct the jury.

Former D.A.-gone-Blackrobe Morse was bad enough in blocking No Guns from exercising her basic citizen-right to serve on a jury. But worse was the official misinformation she laid down on the remaining jurors. Dissident attorney Ebullient Ed Frey suggested Morse's conduct might be grounds for a lawsuit to stop the intimidating nonsense that potential jurors must check their sense of justice at the courtroom door and follow orders unthinkingly from those cloaked in authority.

\$\$\$ LOST IN THE MAIL !!! LOST IN THE MAIL ~~~ LOST IN THE MAIL

(Maid Marion Fischer, a Santa Barbara homeless activist and poet, was arrested in 1988 fall homeless encampment in back of the River St. mini-Shelter. The following letter tells a more recent tale--one which *City on a Hill* decided was not worth printing.)

"In late September I got a taste of how the police are treating people down on what's left of the Pacific Garden Mall. I was walking along Pacific near Catchcart in mid-afternoon when I saw Linda Edwards at her Homeless Table being harassed by Officer James.

James's complaint was that Edwards was sitting on the brick planter surface--as I and many others have always done. Linda explained to James that the three benches previously on that block had been torn out in the last two weeks. Merchants said they drew "undesirables."

I found this so outrageous that I joined her and sat down. Arriving soon after were homeless advocate Robert Norse & others. James refused to ticket me or Norse and insisted Edwards sign her ticket or go to jail. Finally after half an hour's hassle, James, uncomfortable with the prospect of carting a bunch of people to jail on frivolous charges left, warning Edwards she was "taking down her name."

Edward was eventually sent a ticket in the mail. I know since it came to my address. She faces more court appearances and maybe a \$138 fine for "criminal sitting." Norse, Edwards, and I tried to pass this story on to *City on a Hill*, but we were told our information was "not reliable" based on conversations the *City Clips* editor had with the police and other unnamed persons.

The story is true; people get more "sitting" tickets every day; and it's a damn shame *City on a Hill* chooses to believe the police rather than eyewitnesses and victims."

Anti-War Addenda: Rumblin' Richard Q. sells great t-shirts and buttons with slogans that include "Fuck War", "War Sucks", and "Bush is a bigger Dick than Nixon"--wearable and readable at \$1 and \$10 for the moneyed among you. Call him at 685-1435.

Maybe Next Issue: Whatever happened to...Midlife Mike M's *Watcha Want?*, the *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep* and its promises for basic homeless rights, People's Park in Berkeley, homeless activist-gone-peace demonstrator Backyard Brian Staley, the first-ever S.F. trial of free food server Sara Menefee, Santa Barbara's Sleeping Ban struggle, and more...more or less.

- "An accordian and a pennywhistle
- play music on the street among the same soggy leaves
that do not last
that did not last before and never will
but they have the last laugh
glittering and brief as winter sunlight."
--from "Street Musicians," *The Underclassified* (1989)
by Julia Vinograd

50¢: those with houses 10¢: those without or borrow & return

24-HOUR PEACE VIGIL AT TOWN CLOCK: OPERATION SLUMBER SHIELD
ON-GOING SLEEP-OUTS, VIGILS, & DEMOS BUFFER HOMELESS SLEEPSEEKERS

Harassment but no tickets or arrests is the current tally at the Town Clock Peace Vigil, which has been operating continuously since Bush sent his bombers over Baghdad a week ago Wednesday. Some homeless folks have left their out-of-the-way foxholes for the solidarity and company of the peace picketeers with sleeping bags, blankets, and warm clothing, finding shelter at night in and around the drained fountain.¹

Activist Linda the Lark Edwards² reported that SCPD continue to stage spontaneous raids on the Clock--such as Monday night's search-and-ID expedition, involving six squad cars, supposedly seeking to track down the owner of a pair of knumbchucks [oriental fighting sticks]. Hotline Horace reports that over the weekend police returned four times to put out a burning barrel, lit to keep vigilers warm in classic New York City homeless style.

Meanwhile, across the street near World Savings Bank, a smaller demonstration of flag-waving "Support Our Troops; Liberate Kuwait!" chanters prompts an occasional honk of support from passing pro-military drivers (the honk poll continues the favor "Get the Troops Out" about 4-1 by this reporter's count). Homeless activists Boston Bob and Moonrise Mike were spotted consorting with youthful fans of President Bush there; even Bathrobespierre Robert was seen hugging female warboosters (as well as peace-lovers back at the Clock).

Dialogue between the two groups is competitive and boisterous, sometimes acrimonious, but nonviolent. "They're still innocent and believe they can trust the government," said one anti-war activist; "when we speak to them as human beings, we find we agree on many things."

A Wednesday afternoon *Die-In*, organized by Linda the Lark Edwards, Tchai, and Whiplash Windy featured a panoply of a dozen volunteer corpses, lying about the Town Clock in honor of the ongoing "Bombs over Baghdad" campaign, with Bathrobespierre Robert blaring out "news bulletins" to passing motorists. No

¹ Drained either as a water-saving measure or to eliminate the embarrassment of red-dye and soap bubbles that kept bubbling out of the fountain last week during protests on the eve of Middle East Mayhem.

² Linda faces misdemeanor charges of "obstructing traffic" on February 8 in Muni Court for witnessing an incident of police harassment [see *Street Shit Sheet* #80].

arrests were made, but when police demanded Linda--wrapped up in a black bodybag--move back on the curb, she declined; Nutcracker Nick and several other overly-anxious demonstrators moved her defiant body out of the street, even over her protests.

1/24/91
S.F.C.
Court Dismisses Most Penalties

Tenderloin hotel operator Adam Sparks had court penalties of 204 days in jail and \$94,000 in fines thrown out by the state Court of Appeal yesterday, but he plans to continue fighting a city law restricting the conversion of residential hotel rooms to tourist use.

The court left intact additional penalties of six days in jail and \$3,000 in fines and rejected Sparks' constitutional challenge to the city law.

Sparks runs the Pacific Bay Inn on Jones Street, where 69 of the 84 rooms are designated by the ordinance for residential use. He had twice been found in contempt of a San Francisco Superior Court injunction requiring him to comply with the law.

In February 1989, the court found 32 violations and sentenced him to a day in jail and a \$250 fine for each violation; it found 178 more violations in November.

The 32 penalties were thrown out because the city's affidavit accusing Sparks of the violations was never formally introduced as evidence and thus could not serve as proof. The court also dismissed 172 of the 178 contempt findings, calling the evidence against Sparks inadmissible hearsay proof.

Up SF. Way...

1/19/91
S.F. EXAMINER
Judge asked to stop arrests of homeless

Advocates say police harass those with no choice but to stay on streets

By Steven A. Chin
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

A coalition of groups working with homeless people has requested a court order forbidding San Francisco police from arresting or otherwise "harassing" the homeless.

"We all need a place to sleep and there's no room at the inn," said Stephen M. Bingham of the San Francisco Legal Assistance Foundation during a hearing Friday before Superior Court Judge Ira A. Brown.

Homeless advocates contend that homeless people are being locked out of shelters because the shelters either lack the space or aren't equipped to handle women, families and couples. According to San Francisco's Independent Housing Service, 8,600 people were turned away from shelters between July 1 and December 31, 1990.

"We're asking the judge to enjoin the police from arresting people who are homeless through no fault of their own. We call it involuntary homelessness," said Bingham.

Brown has 90 days to rule on the request.

In arguing against granting the temporary injunction, Randy Riddle of the city attorney's office said the court had rejected a similar request in August. "They do not have a statutory or constitutional

right to convert city parks to campgrounds," said Riddle.

In the previous suit, filed against Mayor Agnos, a judge declined to grant a preliminary injunction prohibiting arrests made under Penal Code 647(i) and Park Code provisions that outlaw sleeping overnight in parks.

According to The City's interpretation of Penal Code section 647(i), homeless people can be charged with "illegal lodging without permission" when they stay in a public place with their belongings.

The latest injunction request is part of a class action suit filed in October by Bingham against Agnos and The City claiming that The City was not fulfilling its responsibility in meeting the needs of the indigent.

(see p. 6:
for more S.F.
homeless news!)

JUSTICE
FOR
THE
RICH
→



from By No Means, Fall 1990

Shoplifter sentenced to two years in prison

Court report

Richard Carroll Reynolds, 63, of Santa Cruz, was sentenced to two years in prison by Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge William Kelsay for stealing from Zantto's Market. Reynolds was spotted acting nervously as he rearranged a store display. After he left the store police found he had a package of unopened cigarettes and denture cream that was stolen from the market. Reynolds reportedly said he had money to pay for the items but preferred to save it to buy a drink.

Justice
for the
poor →

*****COLD GUSTS FROM THE CONCRETE*****

***** SWIMMING AGAINST THE STREAM--that's the direction of the incorrigible Sergeant Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig, according to watchful one-time Homeless Table activist Moonrise Mike Carreiro. Under scrutiny from Councilmember Scott Kennedy and criticism from Traffic Court Referee Maddog Mulligan, the SCPD Life-Style Patrol suspended its "brick-sitting" ticket blitz against youth, homeless, and street people down on the mall [see *Street Sheet* #80].

Not Hennig, apparently. Moonrise saw him farming out fines as usual earlier this week in what we hope was either a last hurrah or a case of lamentable war hysteria. Are we really back to the old "rest your bums, go to court" routine? Come on, Bob, update your target selection! Make those next street sorties cost-effective and successful!

***** CONTINUING TO CAUCUS SECRETLY is the Coalition for a Safe Place to Weep³--the liberals 'peaceful and quiet' answer to unseemly protest actions like The Homeless Table and H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom). Rumor has it that some of the funding raised by the group has been returned to its donors as the Coalition's taste for combat on the side of the homeless against the "no sleep" edicts of City Council has cooled.

The Coalition's practice of holding "executive sessions" with invitation-only membership keeps uncomfortable opinion at a minimum and allows for a small centralized group to move things in the "right direction." Conable and Marr, to their credit, have been spotted at the trial of Rocky Stone [see *Street Shit Sheet* #80], the Board of Supervisors' meeting that modified but essentially buried the call for a Shelter Emergency, and City Council meetings where Bubbah Brian Koepke, Bathrobespierre Robert, Linda the Lark, and Stormin' Norman continue to bring police abuses before the public.

But is that all the Coalition can do? Petitions by the bushel, bucks by the thousand, and politically-correct contacts with sanitary respectable organizations up the ying-yang--can't this inactive group of elitists get it together with all the support they've so carefully amassed and directed away from demonstrations and direct action? Must we conclude that for the politically timid, legalized sleeping is a good idea certainly, but not one worth going to jail or frightening the horses about?

Find out for yourself at the Coalition's next

3 Or the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep, as it still calls itself. Headed by Sharin' Sherry Conable, the CSPA has kept a very low profile since the fall fiasco when it split the homeless movement, successfully elected some SCAN-endorsed Progressives, and abandoned its much ballyhooed plan to set up a homeless-run campground back of the River St. mini-Shelter.

CSPA leaders "Moxie" Margaret Marr and Sharin Sherry continue to confer with a group of carefully-selected homeless favorites to "get input" and fashion a credible "homeless stamp of approval" on their carefully-limited and prefabricated agenda.

Gone without a trace are Marr's fall proposals for a modification of the Sleeping Ban, Conable's plans to reintroduce the Homeless Campground at the new City Council or the Board of Supervisors, and the hopes and expectations so publicly paraded before the November elections.

talkathon--slated for February 6 at 7:30 p.m. at 215 Ocean View Drive [to get past the guards, it may be wisest to seek an engraved invitation at 425-8921]. Carrying a copy of the *Street Shit Sheet* or announcing any affiliation with Bathrobespierre Robert is not advised. The Coalition leaders have made it a practice in the past to meet secretly and exclude radicals.

***** NO TIME FOR SHOWERS at the River St. mini-Shelter since September. Moonrise Mike saw a guy evicted from Denny's for "incorrect odor" some days ago. Maybe if the *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep* would loose some of its treasure trove of bucks to fund showers at the mini-Shelter, they could reopen their program again. Right now Carota's Soup Kitchen is the only place to go for a washing. If you do, make sure you don't wear a "legalize hemp" T-shirt; we hear that the Christian charity there doesn't extend to those who prefer pot to booze and make their views known.

***** DON'T PROTEST THE WAR-TO-END-ALL-WARS TOO LOUDLY-- that's the word from the Soquel Flea Market, according to Rumblin' Richard Q., the outspoken button-and-t-shirt salesguy. When he tried to sell his "War Sucks" T-shirts to market merchants, he was approached by irrate pro-war blowhards who objected to his message. Using a technicality about stall space, the management insisted he leave, but Richard continues to offer anti-war t-shirts, reading "Support Our Troops--**FUCK WAR!**," "Make Love, **FUCK WAR!**," and, the more succinct: "**FUCK WAR!**" Call Richard at 685-1435 if this message appeals to you.

***** A CASE FOR UN INTERVENTION? Homeless sympathizer C.M. Berger notes an alarming parallel between U.S. POWs, being tortured by sleep deprivation to break their spirits and the local homeless being rousted regularly and told sleeping is no go if you ain't got the dough. Seems there's a 1949 Geneva Convention about that--but then the Somnolent Seven (City Council, that is--or the Gang of 7, as it was fondly known) were told about that by peace activist Charles Grey before he left for Nicaragua to build houses for the homeless down there. Our police--torturers? Nah. Well, perhaps a quick note to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar suggesting an investigation--just to be sure.

***** ROUGH TIMES FOR THE RATMAN Writer, photographer, and vandweller Steve S., known to some intimates as "the Ratman" for his collection of pet rodents, reports increased harassment from sheriff's deputies North of Santa Cruz. Though county law permits "roadside resting" in vehicles, he was given the third degree by some tough-talking troopers a few nights back and told to move along or else. Or else, what? Since a 1985 ordinance sponsored by Gary Patton permits sleeping in vehicles by the side of the road if you're traveling through. Could it be that those lovable brownshirts are again misinforming innocents as to their rights? Somebody call Sheriff Noren; he'll put a stop to this!

Street Sheet September 1990



January 8, 1990
614 Hanover St.
Santa Cruz, Ca
95062

Letters

Watsonville Register-Pajaronian
Dear Editor,

I'm glad proposals for a police review commission are getting some front-page attention. The issue is equally important for homeless Santa Cruz citizens, who have faced (and continue to face) harassment in the street and stonewall at the police station.

As part of a homeless rights group, *Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom*, I personally witnessed police reaction to several dozen citizen complaints. Last spring and summer when homeless people tried to reclaim blankets and backpacks seized by the police during the Homeless Table protests, victims were directed to other departments (the D.A., the city clerk, the city attorney). As the police warehouse filled up with homeless possessions, people trying to get their clothing back were told that their goods had been disposed of, directed to "get a court order," or even given a misdemeanor citation ("public nuisance") for the presumption of having raised the issue.

Written complaints to Jack Bassett's Police Department are routinely met with an undated unsigned form letter. I was present on three occasions when the watch sergeant refused to take a complaint from a homeless person unless that person was willing to speak to the sergeant alone (something none of the three were willing to do).

When dozens of demonstrators descended on the Santa Cruz Police Dept. last May to demand the suspension of a sergeant who had arrested and roughed up a street musician for leaning against a fence on the Pacific Garden Mall, Deputy Chief Dunbaugh responded by ticketing and arresting four spokespeople for the demonstration, whom he invited into his office "to talk." More to the point, the sergeant in question was not removed from the beat, not retrained, and certainly not suspended.

The political brawn and brain behind the current Santa Cruz City Council's "Progressive" majority--SCAN (Santa Cruz Action Network)--overwhelmingly passed a call for a Civilian Police Review and Policy Board a year ago, yet the Council has taken no action to make that Board a reality. Citizens have got to demand of Santa Cruz and Watsonville that they establish real Review Boards.

The Boards should be independent of the police and not under the City Council's thumb. They should have subpoena powers, and the ability to seek injunctive relief against abusive police policies (such as arresting people for sleeping). Finally they should educate citizens on filing complaints and claims, asserting and defend their own rights, and keeping a helpful eye on the police to commend when appropriate, to correct when necessary.

Sincerely,
Robert Norse (427-1205)

↑ ↑ BEFORE ↑ ↑

2 GUYS GETTING BUSTED

2 guys are getting busted in the middle of the street at noon.
"I don't know what they did."
"What did they do?"
the man standing next to me asks.
3 cop cars. A crowd.
"Now I want all of you standing around watching to sign my petition."
It's for a good cause."
says a guy with a petition.
But I've signed a lot of petitions without a 10th the emotion I feel at the little click the handcuffs make shutting.
I shouldn't be able to hear it with all the cars passing and a black dog barking and a child crying to go home. But I can hear it.
So can everyone watching almost too hard to breathe. It's strange.
After all, they'll probably get out in the morning.
"They'll probably get out in the morning," the man standing next to me says, but that expression is on his face too.
Fascination because the handcuffs are on someone else this time. And the little click as they shut echoing in our ears, coming closer.



- From Julia Vinograd's
The Underclassified (1984)

Review the police

To the editor:

I'm glad proposals for a police review commission are getting some front-page attention. The issue is equally important for homeless Santa Cruz citizens, who have faced (and continue to face) harassment in the street and stonewall at the police station.

Written complaints to Jack Bassett's police department are routinely met with an undated unsigned form letter. I was present on three occasions when the watch sergeant refused to take a complaint from a homeless person unless that person was willing to speak to the sergeant alone (something none of the three were willing to do).

The political brawn and brain behind the current Santa Cruz City Council's "progressive" majority - the Santa Cruz Action Network - overwhelmingly passed a call for a Civilian Police Review and Policy Board a year ago, yet this council has taken no action to make that board a reality. Citizens have got to demand of Santa Cruz and Watsonville that they establish real review boards.

The boards should be independent of the police and not under the city council's thumb. They should have subpoena powers, and the ability to seek injunctive relief against abusive police policies (such as arresting people for sleeping). Finally they should educate citizens on filing complaints and claims, asserting and defending their own rights, and keeping a helpful eye on the police to commend when appropriate, to correct when necessary.

ROBERT NORSE
Santa Cruz

→
→
A
F
T
E
R
→

SFPD CONTINUES CRACKDOWN AGAINST FOOD NOT BOMBS IN CIVIC CENTER
HOMELESS SLEEPERS HASSLED; VET'S VIGIL DISRUPTED; MCHENRY ARRESTED

With the advent of massive anti-war demonstrations in downtown San Francisco, a reinvigorated Food Not Bombs reestablished 24-hour feeding facilities at the Civic Center Plaza there. Its round-the-clock homeless feeding operation forcibly dispersed by Mayor Art "Busts Not Bread" Agnos in the summer of 1989, FNB had continued a more limited and low-profile program nightly at the Civic Center and other spots around the city in spite of an ongoing injunction, obstruction from different city agencies, and the occasional brutal beating from the SFPD.⁴

The night before Bush's War exploded, FNB again set up shop at Civic Center across from the main library and within eye view of Agnos's office. San Francisco homeless citizens have felt the lash of Agnos forked tongue earlier this year: one half of it murmuring that the two Multi-Service Centers are providing adequate beds for the 6500+ who need them⁵, the other half issuing the police orders to roust and jail sleepers⁶.

Occupied with pursuing peace demonstrators enraged by Bush's bombing blitz, police reportedly took no action against peace and homeless encampments that sprung up in the Civic Center for the first few days of the war. But after Saturday's 100-200,000-strong anti-war rally⁷, the blue-bellied blanket burglars

4 A new Parks and Rec regulation has apparently made it impossible to get permits for feeding the homeless in parks. Also, see Street Shit Sheet #79 for details of FNB organizer Keith McHenry's unhappy visit to Policeland. Other useful sources for following the trials of FNB and the Agnos/SFPD harassment of the homeless are By No Means, 191 Golden Gate Ave., S.F. 94102; the [San Francisco] Street Sheet, Coalition on Homelessness [COH], 126 Hyde St., S.F. 94102; and The Tenderloin Times, 49 Powell St., S.F.

5 Rubbletime Ray of the COH reports a maximum of 2200 beds available through Multi-Service Centers and Hotline Hotels [also known as Patel Hells].

6 Taking a page from San Diego police, who dusted off an ancient (1870s) and irrelevant anti-lodging trespass law in 1988(647i), the San Francisco Sleepbusters cited and arrested dozens under this law during the summer of 1990 to depopulate the downtown Civic Center. Their terrorist raids, where homeless bedding and possessions were tossed into a garbage truck and compacted, met opposition from demonstrators, who slept out in protest, were arrested, and finally freed with charges ultimately dismissed.

When pro-homeless groups sued the city to stop enforcement of 647i [now in limbo awaiting a court decision], yuppie sleepslayers shifted to park codes 3.12 [no camping] and 3.13 [no sleeping 10 p.m.-6 a.m.] to establish probable cause to search and harass the visually-undesirable and drive them into the back alleys. Rubbletime Ray tells us that the park codes have been selectively used to target peace vigilers, both homeless and otherwise.

7 That demo, the largest in two decades, turned into a huge

reportedly returned to their old tricks, rousting and threatening shivering sleepers. Eight were arrested for sleepcrime early in the week. Tuba'grub Tom reported police sweeps four to six times a night--perhaps part of the SFPD's 'war readiness' plan to keep the homeless on their toes and off their backs. When police threatened to seize homeless bedding, FNB workers immediately claimed the material as their own, but cops nonetheless dismantled protest structures, some of which were retrieved by stealthy protesters.

Soursoup Sara noted that FNB fed thousands during the huge Saturday rally, then several hundred on Martin Luther King's birthday. The same day police savaged the Homeless Vet's Vigil for Peace. The next day (Tuesday, Jan. 22), cops seized soup and dismantled the wooden structure out of which FNB was serving. Angry foodseekers and soupserverers marched to the Board of Supervisors meeting, where more than a dozen people spoke--denouncing the soupsnatchers, while homeless vets also reported police seizure of tables, chairs, banner, bedding, and blankets. As it was in Santa Cruz during the winter of 1989-90 at the Homeless Table, it is apparently now a violation of the Sleeping Ban in San Francisco for those on the political hitlist to wrap up in blankets against the cold. Said Sara, "They don't want to see people on the holy ground of Civic Center plaza--especially the ones who need it."

Hauled off in handcuffs on Wednesday morning was Keith McHenry, FNB's red-faced and round-bellied Main Merry Prankster. The jovial carrotcutter was seized in a police fishing expedition for "driving without a license" though no reason was given for the vehicle stop. Once at the station, Keith's black past was laid bare when an unpaid littering ticket turned up on the computer. Some months ago in Berkeley, Keith had apparently thrown a "no cooking without a diploma" citation to the ground before the eyes of outraged officialdom, who used the occasion to immediately write a second ticket.

Emerging many hours later, Keith laughed and responded that the feeding would go on, with yet another police abuse incident to be added to his multi-million dollar suit against San Francisco [still in judicial limbo at presstime].

Also scheduled in court: Soursoup Sara Menefee, the first-ever Frisco food felon to be apprehended and actually taken to the brink of jury trial. Observers doubt if her Friday 9 a.m. hearing in Dept. 16 will result in anything other than another postponement, but celery-pushers are ready to flood the courthouse with edibles if a jury is actually impaneled. Stay tuned for details. And contact FNB at Civic Center or at 415-330-5030 to help with cooking, serving, and ending the war.

picnic with only miniscule direct action emerging from it. Rally sponsors reportedly pulled a woman away from the microphone by force when she sought to address the crowd on non-violent civil disobedience. Sounds a little like liberal leaders down here in Santa Cruz, who preferred there be no speeches about civil disobedience for the thousands gathered at the County Building the evening of January 17th. Return to your homes; write your congressperson; and don't alarm the media!

+++++WHATEVER HAPPENED TO....+++++

+++++ BACKYARD BRIAN STALEY, wild-eyed hunger faster for SWAP (Soup Without A Permit) and first man in the country convicted for feeding the homeless in the spring of 1989, is now slinging soup again at the *Food Not Bombs* guerrilla feeding ground in the S.F. Civic Center program. He lives in the remains of his car and requests hugs be sent to him at either location.

+++++ MIDLIFE MIKE MISHLER, intrepid editor of the sometime homeless periodical *Watcha Want?*, is reportedly working when he can, living somewhere between the River St. mini-Shelter and the Town Clock, and organizing *Zombies for War*, a new support group for President Bush.

+++++ GINGERSNAP GEORGE POLITOWSKI, or "Salad George" to those who clamored for his lettuce and tomatoes during SWAP II's Free Meal outside the Post Office last spring, is now living in a trailer, working for "mentally ill" children, and proofreading the *Street Shit Sheet* in his spare time.

+++++ CALAMITY JANE IMLER, the Mother of the Santa Cruz homeless movement, whose hunger strikes and civil disobedience, helped establish the first public homeless shelters and the first "prayers optional" free meal, is recovering from parathyroid surgery and chronic fatigue syndrome, and writing nasty letters to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* back in Missouri.

+++++ TUG-A-PEACE TROY GIBBONS, the first peace demonstrator arrested in Santa Cruz the afternoon before the war broke out at a the blockade of Mission and Hiway 1, is reportedly out of jail after three days behind bars for "insufficient ID." Thanks to those who contributed to his bail and to Battlin' Bob Taren for looking into his case.

+++++ GRINNING RAY GRUENEICH, better-late-than-never homeless attorney, still practicing law from his lair on Chestnut St., and still offering free legal help to any and all caught in the toils of the Santa Cruz City Sleeping Ban [plead not guilty, get a trial date, and show up for your trial; he'll try and be there].

Problems with the Police? Contact SPAN (Stop Police Abuse Now!) at 475-2012. Nutcracker Nick will help you fill out complaints and claims forms. All absolutely free ! At no extra charge ! Do yourself and others a favor. As witness or victim, report all cases of abuse.

Next Issue!: Guarding the free clothing bin at People's Park in Berkeley, Struggles to the South in Sleepslayer Santa Barbara, more notes from the North, a special Squatter's Report from NYC by Hotline Horace, and whatever else you send in!

with houses: "I would like to heal the silences...
50¢ All the cigarettes ever lit instead
of saying something that might have helped...
without houses: People just standing there,
10¢ even the words 'spare change'
died in their mouths...."
flat broke: --from "The Silences" by Julia Vinograd
borrow & return The Blind Man's Peep Show (1990)

EXTRA! HOW TO FIGHT YOUR SLEEPING TICKET! (see pp. 1-2)

POLICE BRAND TOWN CLOCK PEACE VIGIL 'HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT'
ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS FIGHT TICKETS WITH PETITIONS, PUBLICITY

The velvet glove dropped from the iron fist of the SCPD on Thursday night (Jan. 24-25) last week when 6 or more people found themselves branded sleep criminals with Sleeping Ban citations to prove it. Why? For holding an antiwar nighttime vigil at the Town Clock wrapped in blankets against the cold? The "fine 'em til they flee" campaign intensified Tuesday and Wednesday nights (Jan 29 & 30) in what seemed a regression to the medieval days of SCPD Sleepbusting a year ago. Back then Bassett's¹ Bedbashing Bumbusters made regular raids at the Post Office Homeless Table hauling away bedding, political literature, and the table itself, as well as citing people for wrapping up in blankets against the cold [see Street Shit Sheet #66].²

Earlier that week, caterwauling cops on foot and loudspeaker had periodically awakened vigilers throughout the night. They specifically told their victims on Wednesday night (Jan. 23), according to Saxophone Barry, that they would not be cited if they were awake and so not in violation of the "No Sleep for the Poor" 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. ban. However the next night, armed city-funded Sleepbusters apparently changed their minds and decided to unleash their ticket launchers anyway. Six were cited for criminal midnight repose--including Barry and Moonrise Mike

1 Chief of Police Jack Bassett reportedly exercises significant if not autonomous authority in the ongoing if somewhat muted campaign against Sleepers Without Credit Cards. He has persistently misinformed City Council and the Mayor's office that ticketing sleepers was done "only upon complaint," and regularly recommends against any loosening of the Sleeping Ban.

The top cop's public statements support a mall redesign as a Consumer Concentration Camp freed from the clutter of counterculture folks, trees, and benches. Bassett has also pursued a singleminded policy of stonewalling and harassment against homeless activists like Bathrobespierre Robert Norse, ranging from pressing bogus "false information" misdemeanor charges in 1988, 1989, and 1990, to blandly sanctioning the improper towing of the dumbfounded militant's car on the basis of a "computer error."

2 HOW TO FIGHT YOUR SLEEPING TICKET!

Attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich has agreed to free lawyering for all Sleeping Ban cases (violations of city ordinance 6.36).
WHAT TO DO: 1. Wait a few weeks for the ticket to reach the county computers. 2. Line up at the Dept. F. window in the basement of the County Building around 7:30 a.m. (M-Th), and get an (cont.)

Carreiro, one-time Homeless Tabluhteer from the winter of 1989-90.³

A Thursday article in the *Santa Cruz Urinal*⁴ suggested Police Department masterminds were claiming the Peace vigil was actually a homeless-demonstration-in-drag. Rights for the homeless, as regular *Street Shit Sheet* readers know, are considered open game for blue-bellied Sleepslayers, but peace vigils--particularly in liberal-but-not-too-loudly(!)-Santa Cruz--are seen as a notch more respectable. So was this latest piece of intelligence work genuine Dick Tracy dimwittedness or a contrived but plausible excuse to smear-and-smother the on-going demonstration as grubby trolls demanding sleeping rights without the proper cash or pajamas.

Most saw an unpleasant pattern emerging: marginalize, isolate, and finally disband the No Blood for Oil resistance, which has attracted a whole new sea of faces, unknown during the homeless protests of the last few years. Saxophone Barry and others began circulating a petition, demanding that the First Amendment rights of the antiwar outpost be respected [see p. 4], and posted a large sign "Police Crackdown Seeks to End Police Vigil; Be Here Tonight!"

On Saturday (Jan 26th), officers directed vigilers to move the Peace News bulletin board "out of sight" back on the dirt behind the clock along with all bedding and personal possessions. On Sunday morning (Jan 27th), Won Ton Dave got a "littering" citation for sitting on a pallet with a "Police Crackdown" sign attached; gun-toting censors went to confiscate pallet and sign, but demonstrators rescued the latter [and it was still visible from the road as of Thursday morning, Jan 31st]. Won Ton's diary records that badge #189 announced that Rules-of-the-Day for vigils & signs had changed. By dusk, the tight-lipped Sgt. Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig appeared suggesting that the misdemeanor Public Nuisance charges he had used with such deadpan delight against Homeless Tabluhtees the year before could also be used against unsightly Peace seekers. An hour or two later Officer

arraignment time for later that day. 3. At the arraignment, plead "Not Guilty," state that you don't "waive time" (i.e. want to be tried as soon as possible). Request a trial before the judge (jury trials not allowed on infractions), and get a court date (usually a week later). 4. You may get subpoenas for required witnesses at the Traffic Dept. win-dows as well as instructions on how to serve them. 5. Gregarious Grueneich will hopefully be around at your trial date to help you defend yourself (usually on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. F.).

Be warned that probable "judge" Maddog John Mulligan is notably unfriendly to basic human needs--particularly sleeping and protesting. When police are enforcing the "homeless go home!" subtext of the business-pleading Somnolent Seven [City Council], Mulligan is worse than a rubberstamp. In a recent case involving Bathrobespierre Robert, Maddog ruled that bundling up for warmth was apparently "not a good enough excuse" to avoid the crime--though he did admit "the case was a close one." Come prepared to be outraged and convicted.

3 Moonrise Mike, one of the original post-earthquake Homeless Table crew, in an 8-month night-and-day demonstration against the city Sleeping Ban, said adios to his protest days over half a year ago, when he signed on with Sharin' Sherry Conable's Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep [CSPS], whose agenda has no room for (cont.)

Bracher (#137) insisted protesters remove any signs from the clock tower itself, but declined to specify the ordinance being violated.

Shortly before 7 a.m. on Monday morning, the ticketing barrage began anew, reportedly with a surprise boot-to-the-body of one protester by one of the citing officers. After an uneasy calm for five shifts, police renewed their sleep deprivation tactics Wednesday morning with four tickets, though Won Ton himself escaped molestation because he was walking about. And on Wednesday night (Jan. 30), the SCPD demanded that all blankets, bedding, etc. be returned to the brick area of the clock itself in a continuing game of midnight musical beds.

Later that night early on Thursday morning, Santa Cruz's finest reportedly gave 10 to 12 sleeping tickets in what appeared to be an escalating campaign designed to "draw a line in the concrete," stop the "Blanket aggression" of the demonstrators, and possibly to "send a message" to the shabby sign carriers that they could not swallow up the helpless Town Clock without Bassett's Boys "kicking a few butts." The Peace Patriots' response: larger and more visible placards, increased outreach to sympathetic but less rugged liberals, and a determination to retain the First Amendment on this side of the world, at least as long as Bush's bombs continued to tear apart wrists, cheeks, and stomachs on the other side of the globe.

POLICE VS. PROTESTERS



Protesters vow to stay

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — About a dozen anti-war protesters said Thursday that they are camping at the Town Clock as a legitimate vigil and that their number does not include "drunks and beggars."

A police official said Wednesday that officers would move in and clear out the growing clutter around the clock if they determined that the protest was really about the city's camping ban and not events in the Persian Gulf.

A number of homeless activists who had protested earlier against

the camping ban told the City Council on Tuesday that they were now advocating for peace. But none of them were at the Town Clock on Thursday morning.

"I have a home," said Michael Mishler. He said he spent the night Wednesday because the crowd was sparse "and I thought that I should stay." Mishler said he works in inventory control at a local electronics firm.

"I know the homeless people here and none are here. There's a mixture of locals and people from out-of-town, mostly Rainbow People," Mishler said.

He and others complained that

some of their members were attacked by rocks and fists Wednesday night. One young man displayed cuts on his face.

Alex Gladkowski of Ben Lomond said he was staying at the clock "because I didn't want to waste away in front of the TV."

Allen Penn of Berkeley said he came to Santa Cruz shortly after the war broke out and has stayed to protest at the clock.

"People drive by and see people here who are the fringe element of society. We're not freaks, we just have different lifestyles," Penn said.

Bill Lovelov/Sentinel

Allen Penn of Berkeley says vigil is a legitimate protest against the war, not a camp out.

The Santa Cruz Urinal reports...

1/25/91

such militance. Along the road to respectability, Moonrise also acquired a favored place on the cooking staff of Q.C. [Queen of the Cupcakes] Karen Gillette's Free Meal, which unsuccessfully sought to bar homeless rights discussions and flyering at the meal site.

Perhaps nostalgic for his wilder days-of-yore, Moonrise has made a few veiled threats to revive the Homeless Table protest at the Post Office in the wake of the CSPS's sanctuary fiasco last fall. But so far the only table the Activist who Came in from the Cold has been seen at has been at one for the already well-funded Homeless Garden Project, run by the financially agile Paul Lee of the Citizen's Committee for the Homeless.

3 See above. The Urinal is more easily recognized by its

comical code name, the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Petitions + Appeals

From the Town Clock Vigil

DEAR POLICE, LOCAL STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, SUPPORT THE 24-HOUR PEACE VIGIL AT THE TOWN CLOCK UNTIL THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND RETURN OF OUR TROOPS. PLEASE DON'T HARASS PEACEFUL PROTESTERS. PROTECT THEM FROM ASSAULT AND BATTERY WITH ORANGES, ROCKS, EGGS, BOTTLE ROCKETS AND FISTS.

[Blank lines for signatures]

POLICE CRACKDOWN SEEKS TO END PEACE VIGIL

POLICE TRY TO CLAIM PEACE VIGIL IS A HOMELESS PROTEST. POLICE CLAIM THIS LIE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PEACE VIGIL HAS ALWAYS CALLED FOR AN END TO THE WAR IN IRAQ, TO BRING THE TROOPS HOME, ALIVE, NOW! WORLD PEACE FOR EVERYONE.

JANUARY 25, 1991
5:54 A.M.

DEAR SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

BE ADVISED; YOUR ATTEMPT TO END THE SANTA CRUZ CLOCK TOWER PEACE VIGIL BY ENFORCING THE "CAMPING BAN" IS NOT CONSTITUTIONAL IN THAT IT DENIES US OUR RIGHT TO PEACEABLE ASSEMBLY IN PROTEST OF THE IRAQ WAR.

OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ASSUMED US THAT THIS WAR WILL BE OVER QUICKLY. WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, HAVE DECIDED TO PEACEABLY MAINTAIN A VIGIL AT THIS TOWN CLOCK UNTIL A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND RETURN OF OUR TROOPS. OUR CONTINUOUS PRESENCE DURING THIS TIME OF KILLING AND DYING IS THE STATEMENT WE WISH TO MAKE.

YOUR ATTEMPTS TO END THIS PROTEST BETWEEN THE HOURS OF MIDNIGHT AND DAWN IS ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND DOOMED TO FAILURE.

CLEARLY THE BILL OF RIGHTS' 1ST AMENDMENT, RIGHT TO PEACEABLE ASSEMBLY, SUPERSEDES LOCAL ORDINANCES. BE ADVISED, THOMAS JEFFERSON IS OUR LEADER. WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED.

Way Tan Dave [Signature]

93 Quail Run Aptos Ca 95003
David Gottlieb
Michael Muller P.O. Box 3382 S.C. CA. 95061

IN ADDITION, THE HOMELESS NO-SLEEPING LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL ON ITS FACE IN THAT IT BARS HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM EXPRESSING THEIR PREDICAMENT. THESE ARE ALL 1ST AMENDMENT FREE SPEECH ISSUES.

CALLING ON ALL PEACE SEEKING PEOPLE TO COME STAND, TALK AND SLEEP FOR PEACE TONIGHT, ALL WEEKEND AND WHENEVER YOU CAN TILL THERE IS PEACE.

STUDENT ALERT!!! SCHOOL DISTRICT SEEKS TO BUST STUDENT PROTESTERS!!! FIGHT BACK FOR YOUR 1ST AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

*****GROWLS FROM THE GUTTER*****

***** THE BATTLE OVER BENCHES AND BRICKS apparently continues down on the mall, or that was the word from Mad John Telfair earlier this week. Seems Officer "Bright Eyes" Beaver approached his Psychiatric Victims' Rights Table across from the Metro on Pacific Monday afternoon and demanded everyone sitting on the brick planters "move along or get cited." Faster than a speeding Scud missile, everyone leaped up--everyone except Linda the Lark Edwards.

Having successfully fought the issue in court last month [see Street Shit Sheet #81], she drawled, "well, if you're gonna have to ticket me, go ahead, but I'm tired and this is where I'm sitting." Bright-Eyes continued to wave his ticketbook about menacingly, but issued no citation. A lesson for the timid: hold your ground. For the more timid: at least stay and witness.

***** IF YOU'RE HOMELESS IN MONTEREY COUNTY, don't say so to the Salinas County Jail authorities if you want to get out on O.R. ("on your own recognizance" without bail) That's what Linda the Lark and fourteen others discovered, as they awaited booking after an 80-strong anti-war demonstration outside Ford Ord Sunday evening (Jan 27).

The holding cell was a damned sight more comfortable than the cold floor and benches of our own Santa Cruz brig, Linda reports, and they even served hot chicken and potatoes to those awaiting processing (unlike our local lockup's "no grub for the grubby"

pre-booking policy).

Then the Salinas deputies revealed that the bail for the cooked-up misdemeanor charge against the demonstrators ("standing on the median of a highway") was \$1500, above the \$1000 ceiling for O.R. release. And even worse, Mettlesome Meg, one of three homeless protesters, gave "no address" and was told they were going to hold her. "Then hold the rest of us as well," was the solid response from Linda (also homeless) and the others. That didn't appeal to the jailers, so they released all 15, but if you're ever over that way, have a friend's address along, unless you want to keep eating those home-cooked jailhouse meals. Linda's arraignment date is Feb. 19 8:15 a.m. in Salinas for dedicated fans.

***** "WHERE THE DEVIL ARE THOSE BENCHES?" actually got a reply of sorts in a City Council staff reportm. dated Jan. 16, commissioned by Councilmember Scott Kennedy back in December. Eager street[people] sweeper squads from Parks & Rec had removed 11 of the 37 benches there in 1980 by autumn 1989, writes Jitterbuggin' Jim Lang⁵. Lang's report defends the removal of the benches as a "reactionary response" to merchant complaints, allegedly *with the approval of the Mayor and City Council*. Strangely enough, such removals never appeared on the Council agenda or were a matter of public debate. Quoth Lang, "there has not been any public process associated with this process."

In fact, under the 1988 regime of Lord Mayor John Laird and Motormouth Mike Rotkin, the public was informed that the Leask's and Bookshop Santa Cruz benches were removed "because the wood was rotten." A rotten lie, surely, but somewhat worse was the base hypocrisy of these "progressive" and "socialist" politicians, whose arrogance toward the street people and homeless lives on in the on-going police practice of terrorizing folks sitting on the mall [with the benches gone, they sit on the planters].

The Lang report, probably inadvertently, fully exposes the Laird-Rotkin fabrication, which was obvious to homeless activists at the time, but is now documented. Rumor has it that Kennedy may recommend restoration of some of the benches. Some is not enough. The four or five benches removed from the Metro-Mall area should be restored as quickly as they were removed, with apologies to the public for the inconvenience (and blatant prejudice) involved. And a public process should be mandated for putting the reins on any more bureaucratic bigotry designed to squeeze the powerless and the poor. Let us make sure that *Darkness Santa Cruz*⁶ is not riddled with similar "customers only" schemes.

5 Lang, a frequent target of the *Street Shit Sheet*, has been harpooned in the past for using his bureaucratic black thumb to initiate the very first food wars at the *Town Clock* (Nov. 1988), veto showers for the homeless at *Harvey West* (May 1989), and presumably sanction the ongoing merchant-sponsored bench-napping campaign of recent notoriety. Hopefully if the spotlight continues to focus on his jovial backstage maneuvers, he may find it more politically expeditious to "jitterbug" down the road in a less repressive direction.

6 Known to the giddy of intellect as *Vision Santa Cruz*. In spite of the ongoing war emergency, we invite readers to keep a close eye on the Carmel-North leanings of some folks in this group. Be loud today or sorry tomorrow.

***** S.F. SOUPSNATCHERS THROW COOKBOOK AT *FOOD NOT BOMBS*
--that's the word from organizer Keith McHenry, who notes he was served with a 500+ page indictment last week. Under an outrageous injunction barring him from feeding the hungry since the summer of 1989, McHenry and *FNB* has continued to provide vats of soup nightly to peaceniks, hobos, and passersby-of-all-hues down at the S.F. Civic Center, as well as elsewhere around the city. McHenry faces fines of \$1000 and 5 days in jail/per meal on what may be over a hundred "contempt of court" counts. Worst of all, the Falstaffian foodman apparently will have to face a judge without a jury with Mayor Art "Busts not Bread" Agnos' looking on.

Still waiting in the wings for her jury trial in another "feed the poor; meet the police" case is Soursoup Sara Menefee, whose judicial jacking-up has been postponed yet again until mid-February. Old-timers suggest the Fatcats downtown have lost their nerve on this case and are just stringing her out until she collapses from exhaustion into a pot of vegetables. Knowing Sara, we doubt this likely.

***** STILL SMARTING FROM "A POLICY OF EXCLUSION" by the faint-but-not-forgotten Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep [CSPS] are Lifeline Linda L., long-time den-mother for the Welfare Parents Support Group, and Sidewalk Shannon, suite and street advocate for the poor and friendless. After securing her support for the ill-fated sanctuary plan of last fall, the CSPS apparently failed to inform Lifeline of upcoming meetings in spite of her repeated requests that they do so. "One reason they failed to win the city's heart was the imagination that was excluded along with the individuals."

Sidewalk Shannon felt herself persona non grata after Sharin' Sherry Conable broke up a September CSPS meeting at the Resource Center for Non-Violence. Unable to secure a consensus to blackball Bathrobespierre Robert, who showed up against Conable's wishes, Sharin' Sherry unilaterally moved the meeting to her house in a move which Shannon felt excluded her as well.

Why bring up this ancient history now? "McCarthyism must be resisted," Sidewalk replies, "We must speak out now, not thirty years later." Out but not down, Bathrobespierre Robert, continues to be locked out of CSPS as well as "Moxie" Margaret Marr's Coalition for a Civilian Police Review Board. Marr, Conable, and others justify the exclusions by suggesting that they are a "private" group, that some of the membership "does not want to work with Bathrobespierre," and that political honchos would veto their proposals if they knew the bearded activist was haunting their meetings.

Previews of Coming Attractions: Santa Barbara Homeless Coalition on The Sorrows of Santa Barbara Sleepers, The Low-Down on Berkeley's People's Park from Joie de Vivre Julie, Linda the Lark fights the Dominican Witch Doctors, Whatever Became of Maid Marion Fischer, Terrible Tom Schreiner, Jailtime Judith Beinert & Loudmouth Leith Austin?, Marionade Mary sings out against the War, Chatanooga Charlie's Hijinks at S.C. High, Rumblings of Mutiny from Mid-Life Mike and SPAWN (Street People Against the War Now!), Prairie Wolf Patrice and Govt. Wilson's "Pummel the Poor" plans, and our endlessly-delayed report from Hotline Horace on How They Do It in New York! Reserve your issue today!

STREET SHEET

#83

February 8, 1991

Friday

free to all

donate if you can

"Police are soldiers who act alone; soldiers are police who act in unison.

--after Hebert Spencer, *Social Statics* (1851)

BASSETT-LANG BRUISERS¹ RETURN TO TOWN CLOCK TO SEIZE SIGNS, "KICK ASS" VET VIGILER, "WON TON" DAVID, BRUTALIZED IN DAWN RAID

After several nights of relative calm following a strong showing of student support for the Anti-War Vigil at Pacific & Water Sts, city warlords reentered with a vengeance this morning at 6:30 AM with handcuffs and hoses to "terminate" the 23-night old "Stop the Killing" protest. Arriving on Sleepbuster duty around 4 AM were old favorites Officers "Bumbuster" Baker and "Cockcrusher" Carrie. Saxophone Barry says the latter announced himself with "God Bless America" and "we've just come from beating the shit out of someone." The two then ticketed a number of the 15-20 demonstrators there (for Sleeping Without A Roof), and left with a promise to return to enforce "new rules" on protest messages.

Return they did at 6:30 a.m. when Barry and Lightfoot Lance witnessed what they described as an unprovoked police assault on peace vet old-timer "Won Ton" Dave Jacobs, who was thrown to the ground and cuffed on charges Carrie and Officer Swanek refused to specify. Those who sought further information were threatened with arrest for "interfering." Officers then demolished sign platforms, carried off the carefully-lettered posters with messages like "Support Our Troops: Bring 'Em Home Alive," and informed those remaining that they were to leave or be arrested. Parks and Wreck automatons then moved in to "hose down" the area.

Mid-Life Mike Mishler, one-time editor of the "truly homeless" *Watcha Want?* newsletter and a frequent demonstrator and occasional sleeper at the Clock, was awakened by the fracas. Mid-Life found police holding Won Ton Dave face down on the pavement in front of the clock in handcuffs that were cutting off his circulation. Mid-Life, contacting media² afterwards, noted that police are now giving sleeping tickets for people who aren't even lying down, much less asleep or "camping." He added that tickets

1 Jack Bassett, capo de capos, heads the local cop shop. Jim Lang, City Park and Wreckers Dept. Squire, is apparently up to his old tricks, helping homeless and peace activists disappear from the streets through removing benches, curtailing park hours, sending out extra rousting squads to issue harassment ("minor in possession of tobacco") citations.

Those who wish to register their feelings on the matter may call Bassett (429-3700) and/or Lang (429-3777). We're interested in what responses the Masters of the Mall give you: phone in your story to H.U.F.F. Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom at 427-1205.

2 Mid-Life called The Santa Cruz Sentinel (423-2121), City on a Hill (459-4384), and radio station KUSP (476-2800). We suggest you do the same if you have a pertinent news story. Keep your eyes on these establishment organs to see if any news drips out of them.

If you are a witness or victim of police abuse, call SPAN (Stop Police Abuse Now!) at 475-2012. Call in to KSCO talk show "Noon Balloon" between 12:15 and 1 p.m. each day to discuss peace and homeless issues (or anything else) at 479-1080.

are given selectively to those regarded as "core demonstrators" such as Saxophone Barry, Mike, and Won Ton in a transparent attempt to disrupt and disband the demonstration. He added that this was the first clear-cut example of police brutality he had seen since Bush's "Bomb the Baghdad Bistros" campaign began in mid-January.

Local high-school students, Mid-Life growled, were largely left alone. Others suggested that it was the homeless, the powerless, and the radical that got police attention and pressure. Those with middle-class families who might raise embarrassing questions with the downtown capos were left unmolested. Mike, Lightfoot, and Bathrobespierre Robert went to the Police Department and City Clerk's office afterwards to file 3 complaints and 7 claims against the city for the action. Angry activists set about lettering new makeshift cardboard signs; "Honk if you're 4 peace" held by Daft-but-Daring Dana prompted an intermittent chorus of car horns as he danced up and down the line of traffic encouraging people to show their rage and their caring.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^RUMORS FROM THE RIVERSIDE^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

^^^^^ FROM FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO RUBBER STAMPERS? Is that the ignominious fate of the subterranean *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep*? Word has reached us that it's now pressing for some sort of Day Center in collusion with merchants, nervous liberals on the Somnolent Seven [City Council], the police department, and the Downtown Social Problems Group--the lizardheart legacy of "Sleepers Get Out!" Lord Mayor John Laird.

Having abandoned its plans for a homeless run sanctuary or a change in the Sleeping Ban, "Sharin'" Sherry Conable now-you-see-it, now-you-don't *Coalition* has apparently moved to more politically conservative terrain. Are you one of the homeless she claims to speak for? Tell Sherry how you feel about this at 425-8921.

^^^^^ TIME FOR A SANTA CRUZ UNION OF THE HOMELESS ? That seems to be the opinion of Mid-Life Mike, Linda the Lark Edwards, and Mudface Michael, homeless all, who feel it's time that the homeless took things out of the hands of well-wishers, bureaucrats, and acid-tongued *Street Shit Sheet* editors. In Santa Barbara, the homeless themselves run the armory; pets and "drunks" are permitted; working folks can come in late at night for shelter. Can it happen here? Call Mid-Life Mike at 425-3113, or ask Q.C. Karen Gillette at the Free Meal about it. "Send Donations," adds the ever-alert Mishler.

^^^^^ BACK FROM THE GRAVE AND TWICE AS PUTRID is the Wormhoudt-Laird Mall Defoliation plan, which comes up for a vote at City Council next Tuesday, February 12th. Want a mall with few trees, benches, and curves, and "sitter-hostile" planters? Check out this monstrosity. Also comes with new trimmed-down Free Speech restrictions to remove those unsightly Homeless Tables.

Further Footnotes for the Faithful: This issue was planned as a 10+ page extravaganza, but your fumble-fingered editor accidentally erased 95% of the material at his trusty computer. Help us! Send your poetry, photos, complaints, and cartoons to The Street Shit Sheet, 614 Hanover St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or call editor Bathrobespierre Robert Norse at 427-1205.

107

"do not use the word violence for a protest fire set in a dumpster use it for the killer system that forces a human being to sleep in one burned and crazy because a fire started in the one where he slept that's the war that's being waged against us and all their escalations of burning terror raining down look at the bodies strewn all around right here he said and tell me that we aren't in one who after we've become numbed to the death-news will still be lighting a flame at those cold front lines a crowd of ten thousand that takes its own streets for peace is not a mob but a serpent with radiant scales and mind of flaming Omega every ashcan crucible every roaring tongue hungriest Jubilee love-feast the songs we sung"

---untitled by hunger activist Sarah Menefee* (1/25/91)

COPS AROUND THE CLOCK: MORE ARRESTS, CITY-ORDERED SIGN VANDALISM
DOZENS OF ANTI-WAR PLACARDS DESTROYED BY LANG'S PARKS & REC

Around 2:30 p.m. yesterday, half a dozen city blueshirts and a search-and-destroy squad from Jim Lang's Bark-and-Wreck Dept brought Bush's "Extirminate Iraq" war home to Santa Cruz yet again with a second day of systematic confiscation and destruction of peace signs. This latest free-speech smothering exercise boasted over 25 targets taken out [i.e. signs seized], and three wooden stand-up platforms "neutralized" (i.e. torn apart).

A city employee, who asked to be quoted anonymously had no patience with the latest hometown "surgical strikes" against protesters: "The men who are making the decisions--Jim [Lang]² and Rudy [Quintanar]--act like they don't want to be left out of the war planning. They insist that the [Town Clock] area be immaculate and want to pretend that no protests are going on--almost like a form of denial. So what if people sleep there? They have to sleep somewhere."

One angry signmaker Daring Dana insisted that the signs were movable and legal, as specified by authorities, and that no warning was given before the the platforms were ripped up and the

1 Soursoup Sarah, as we shamelessly call her, still faces misdemeanor charges Feb. 14 for feeding the homeless with Food Not Bombs in San Francisco in the first [endlessly postponed] jury trial case of its kind. FNB will lead a March for Peace & Justice Feb. 13, 5 PM at Powell & Market in SF, with a 7 PM speakout at Civic Center, followed by a party and all-night camp.

2 Variously titled 'Jitterbug' or 'Gentleman' Jim (for his suave form of smiling Santa Cruz fascism) and 'Lebensraum' Lang (for his attempt to secure the entire downtown area for the 'right' kind of people) has earned a place in these pages for his quiet but effective crusades to filch food from the hungry (Nov. 1988), steal showers from the homeless (May 1989), and bust benches on the mall (1988-1990).

Let Lebensraum know how you like his work with a call to his taxpayer-funded phone line at 429-3777, or drop him a postcard at 323 Church St. Better still: call his boss, the City Manager at 429-3540 and recommend he be given a combat position that better suits his talents closer to the frontlines...and further away from the powerless people he prefers to pummel.

signs thrown into a waiting city truck. Upset but undefeated, Dana was later seen distributing *Street Shit Sheets* to curious motorists, as he weaved in and out of traffic with his newly-made "Honk For Peace" placard.

Two protesters, Bumblebee Beobe and Saxophone Barry, were led off in handcuffs. Officer "Pretty Face" Pruger refused to tell watchers the charges against Beobe; Saxophone Barry was apparently hustled away for seeking to plant a peace garden at the Clock. Plowing up the sacred soil of the Town Clock is apparently a more serious crime than the hourly bombings over Iraq--for Gentleman Jim. Outraged demonstrators immediately made new signs from scavenged cardboard to the approving honks of passing motorists. A large sign "Stop Arresting Protesters: Call City Council 429-3550" advised the public of one possible response.

By evening Barry and Beobe had been released, but Lebensraum's reluctant P & R recruits had already returned with further threats to "depoliticize" the Town Clock, promising more city-funded mayhem on freedom of expression later when traffic was lighter and the city was asleep. True to their word, Lang's Longhorns made another raid around 11 PM, carrying off the personal possessions of Saxophone Barry and distributing Sleeping Ban tickets for the poor. Apparently determined that there should be no rest for the protesters, the Lang Gang made a final sortie at 5:30 AM, ticketing Won Ton Dave Jacobs and his lone companion for habitual sleepiness.

"Won Ton," seized and brutalized without warning Friday morning by SCPD blueshirts, was back at his peace post after a long day in jail. Through incompetence or design, sheriffs continued to tell anxious callers that Jacobs was not in their custody throughout the day. Jacobs reports when he asked to correct an error in the itemization of his property, he was threatened with a 30 day stay before trial.³

The *Santa Cruz Urinal* (aka *the Sentinel*) falsely reported (2/9, p. 2) that Jacobs was jailed for refusing to sign his 'no signs over 14"' ticket. Lightfoot Lance and Saxophone Barry, witnesses to the police assault early Friday morning, [see *Street shit Sheet* #83] confirm Jacobs' story that he was thrown to the ground, told no charges, and certainly not given anything to sign. Truthseekers are invited to contact the *Urinal* editor at 423-2121 to suggest less police pap and more accurate protest reporting as it reads off the daily Pentagon handouts.⁴

3 Normally, because of overcrowding, minor offenders are released without bail on their own recognizance within 3-5 hours after arrest. Jacob's case, therefore, is unusual. If the jail sets bail, it usually holds prisoners and sends them to court for arraignment the second morning after their arrest (on weekends, the following Tuesday). After arraignment on a misdemeanor if the court refuses to O.R. without bail (a rarity), you must be tried within 30 days, if you refuse to "waive time."

4 See *Street Shit Sheet* #83 for a listing of some media phone numbers to call. We need a volunteer media-coordinator--contact Robert at 427-1205, if you're interested in helping as reporter, writer, observer, or telephoner. Check out the occasional Homeless Table--sometimes at the main Post Office, sometimes at the Town Clock for back issues of the Sheet, plus suggestions on how to fight your Sleeping Ticket (see especially S.S.S. #82).

STREET SHIT

SHEET

#85

February 13, 1991

Wednesday

read if you dare

donate if you can

"We must all hang together, else we shall all hang separately."

--Ben Franklin at the signing of the Declaration of Independence

LAUGHIN' LEVY LEADS LATEST ROUND OF SIGN TRASHING AT TOWN CLOCK

PLEAS TO COUNCIL PRODUCE NO CEASEFIRE IN ANTI-PROTESTER CAMPAIGN

Battered by round-the-clock sorties from Sleepbuster SCPD and property-seizing "Barks-and-Wreck" Rangers¹, the 28-day old Vigil for Peace at the Town Clock continues to maintain a tattered if tenuous presence successfully urging driversby to "Honk for Peace." Pro-Bush flagwavers previously across the road from the Town Clock have apparently withdrawn; adolescent egg-throwers continue to target peace vigilers, however, as Bush's war machine moves towards a genocidal ground war, and the majority of the Santa Cruz anti-war movement has retired to sofa and seminar.

Under the stewardship of Won Ton Dave Jacobs, a mixed and mutinous crew of local peace militants, homeless vets, and high-school students relayed the message: "Support Our Troops: Bring 'Em Home Alive Now!" Distorting events when they deigned to notice them were radio station KUSP and the ever-wretched Santa Cruz Urinal (aka *Sentine1*)--notably in the arrest of Won Ton last Friday and the Parks & Rec destruction of picket signs.² After what seemed a hopeful police-protesters ceasefire over the weekend, Cleansocks Gene reported his vigilers' rest disturbed by a whoop and a holler from a police loudspeaker about 2 AM Tues morning (Feb.12).

Four hours later, rangers and blueshirts returned at 6 AM to haul off one "non-responsive" protester for refusing to rise to reveille in the on-going city-funded campaign to ween homeless from their intractable sleeping addiction. Of the ten or so folks there, only one other got a Sleeping citation from the 3 visiting police, but Lebensraum Lang's Park Rangers quickly appeared to

1 The well-known Lebensraum Jim Lang, Secretary of War at the City Parks & Rec. Dept., needs no introduction to our regular readers.

2 In their nightly "news" broadcast of Feb. 11, KUSP newsmanagers Vicki Voss and Matt Binder concocted an issue--the "problem" and "embarrassment" of "those messy protesters at the Town Clock"--in a campaign harkening back to the anti-homeless broadsides of the the Santa Cruz Urinal in the mid-80s. Then, as now, public attention on police misconduct was redirected to "the troll menace downtown."

The unprovoked police assault on Won Ton Dave the morning of Feb. 9 [see Street Shit Sheet #53] was ignored; Binder falsely reported that Jacobs was offered an opportunity to sign an "inappropriate signs" ticket, and then taken in for "resisting arrest" when he refused. Jacobs reports--and says he told Binder--that he was assaulted before being told any charges with no option to sign a citation. KUSP thus missed the basic issue in the city's Protest Extermination Drive--blatant official suppression of free speech in wartime in favor of the Lebensraum Lang's "homeless mess" red herring.

The Urinal also falsely reported on Feb. 10 that Jacobs refused to sign a ticket. Reporter Mark Bergstrom, who took the story, apparently swallowed the police officialdom line without a burp and didn't even cite "police sources," thus concealing the origin of this fairy tale.

"clean up" the area.

In a move reminiscent of S.F.'s campaign to drive the homeless out of the S.F. Civic Center Plaza last summer by compacting homeless property in garbage trucks, Lang's Legionaires announced that all property that could not be held in the vigiler's hands would be confiscated. 3 police cars, 4 cops, and 3 city trucks confronted the tiny band of peaceseekers in yet another of the city's "protective reaction" strikes. Protesters remarked that the invading force was polite, though intimidating, as they made off with a small flag, some placards, and some boards.

Doublegrip Dana and Cleansocks Gene reported that Parks & Rec Rangers continued regular two-hourly raids on the Vigil throughout the day, culminating in another display of force with 6 cops and rangers around 4:30 PM. Around 5:30 PM, Bathrobespierre Robert was seen rushing after Ranger "Locust-eyes" Levy³, who had eagerly seized his untended "Save the Humans: Wage Peace!" picket sign, which was caught leaning illegally against the Town Clock.

Snapping photos wildly, Bathrobespierre demanded the return of his property, but Levy hustled to his white mini-ranger van and broke the unfortunate poster in half before tossing it into the vehicle with a triumphant smirk. Four witnesses sought to console the ruffled Bathrobespierre with promises to file written complaints with Levy's boss [Lebensraum Lang].

Back at the Sittingroom of the Somnolent Seven [City Council], Bathrobespierre Robert demanded the city respond to his false arrest last July 5th after the Homeless Independence Day rally, but the claim was quickly denied on motion of Councilmember Don Lane. The 7 also approved the report of the "no homeless, thank you" Downtown Social Problems Group, headed by the notorious former mayor "Lord" John Laird, again on motion by sometime liberal Don Lane.⁴ Lane, former *Free Meal* generalissimo Bubbah Brian Koepke, and "no militants, please" Sharin' Sherry Conable's *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep* now call for a token Day Center in the boonies rather than press for the right to sleep somewhere. Additionally, the report calls for spiked planters, sharply cut-back tabling-and-free-speech areas, and an obsessive focus on "commercial" activities.

Compressing her outrage into a rare written speech which she distributed to Councilwatchers, activist Linda the Lark Edwards called for massive local support of the homeless, the Town Clock vigil, and a renewed on-the-streets anti-war movement. At presstime she was still trying to contact Councilmember Scott Kennedy for the latest on his search to replace the magical "vanishing benches" on the mall. And, back at the clock, Won Ton Dave was waiting for the latest official line on how much "clutter" justified an image-conscious snip-and-pasting of the First Amendment under the gentle guidance of Lang's team of city bureaucrats-turned-warlords.

*Useful #s: Street Shit Sheet: 427-1205, 614 Hanover St.
S.C. Union of Homeless: 425-3113; Stop Police Abuse Now!: 475-2012
SUPPORT THE TOWN CLOCK PEACE VIGIL WITH YOUR BUCKS & BODIES!
SUPPORT THE ALL-NIGHT SAN JOSE PEACE CAMP AT N. 1st & SAN CARLOS!*

3 Levy, formerly an SCPD officer, got his rep on the streets as a ready-to-wrangle Republican, who was willing to debate issues on the sidewalk, and a nighttime roughrider, who spent his spare time off-duty on anti-sleeping posses along the riverbanks and the railroad tracks, seeking to bring weary pillowpushers to justice.

STREET

SHEET

#86

February 28, 1991

Thursday

homeless: 10c

got a room?: 25c

"The slaying of multitudes should be mourned with sorrow.
A victory should be celebrated with the funeral rite."

--Lao-tse, *The Character of Tao* (6th century B.C.)

"Sleep lingers all our lifetime about our eyes, as night
hovers all day in the boughs of the fir tree."

---Ralph Waldo Emerson

BASSETT'S BULLS MARK CEASEFIRE IN GULF WITH RENEWED ATTACKS AT CLOCK RANGERS AND COPS ROUST VIGIL; CARRY OFF SIGNS, BEDDING, JOURNALS

Climaxing a week of daily harassment and ticketing of the Town Clock Vigil Against the War, SCPD Blueshirts, Greenshirt Rangers, and more reluctant maintenance workers, converged on Won Ton Dave Jacobs and his rain-soaked companions at Water and Pacific St. this morning to begin unannounced confiscations of property and placards. During the past two weeks, Park Rangers have used a variety of pretexts to intimidate picketers including cites and threats to cite for sitting on the monument, bicycle blocking the sidewalk, walking on the bricks, and the ever-popular sleeping-at-night-without-money. With reduced numbers, the vigil has continued its 24-hour Peacewatch, garnering honks of support and new activists from the street, local high schools, and the antiwar community. It was the site of a peaceful traffic-blocking Die-In Saturday night when Bushler chose tanks and Terminators in the Ground War over a negotiated ceasefire and Iraqi withdrawal.

Police chose not to attack then, but by today their attitude towards the undefeated outpost had changed. Redtop Robert, a homeless Cabrillo student and math tutor, who had rejoined the vigil after the Ground Killing began, reported that a roaming police squad car hailed him Wednesday evening. Why, asked city gunmen, were the waterlogged peace warriors were still "pursuing the protest" when Fuhrer Bush had decreed a tentative ceasefire for 9 PM that night? Replied Robert, "Bush says 'the war is behind us, but Iraq has not surrendered; U.S. forces are occupying Iraq; the innocent are still being victimized. Later Redtop added, "we are challenging a power elite, seeking to fight social apathy, and pressing to provide a space where people can come--with companionship and coffee--even to sleep if need be."¹

Gussyed up in tasteful green, Rangers from Lebensraum Lang's Bark & Wreck Dept.² had been paying frequent visits to the 6-week long vigil, with morning "clean-up" crews showing more concern for the "cleanliness" of the area in the last month than they had for the last year in what some called a cover for meddling.

At their Tuesday evening session after making her wait an hour and a half, the Somnolent Seven³ reluctantly agreed to

¹ Robert recalls being part of the group at the Clock that kept a trash barrel blazing all night on February 15th to keep folks warm, when Operation Desert Slaughter began its high-altitude kills of the tiny brown-skinned Iraqi people below.

² Clocktower Cock-o'-the-Walk [and Parks & Rec. Supt.] Jim "Lebensraum" Lang has apparently continued to keep his rangers busy on hourly surveillance duty around the monument in his desire to rid the area of human protesters whose alarming message contrasts with the town's downtown business needs. (cont.)

hear peace vigilier Lighteyes Lonato. Mayor Jane HokeyMama⁴ had cut Oral Communications off twenty minutes early, then rebuked Bathrobespierre Robert for "taking two minutes too much."⁵ Lonato reported that Lebansraum's² Rangers had given her a ticket for "non-obedience to authority [sic]" when she protested their selective harassment of a man earlier that evening.

Shortly after Lonato's citation, Won Ton Dave was cited for "lying on the monument," which, he was told would be "worn down" by such abusive behavior. Obliginglly, he moved to the sidewalk, but was then told there too he menaced the safety of the concrete. Police were called, but at that time were unwilling to arrest the deep-voiced denizen in spite of repeated pleas from the earnest and public-spirited Ranger⁶.

Jetlag Joe reported a sudden hardening of city policy this morning when police insisted they leave, declaring the area "was not a storage facility." For the past two weeks, vigiliers and maintenance workers had been cooperating to clean up the area with Parks & Rec junior G-man insisting only that all possessions be personally claimed and moved by hand.

Under the deadpan direction of Sgt. Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig and Officer Butch "Bumbuster" Baker, the SCPD seized tools, blankets, sleeping gear, and food. Even protest signs, the journal of the vigil, and legal documents were carried off. When Chatterbox Charlie and Redtop Robert tried to take responsibility for the food there, they were threatened with arrest. Treadmill Troy, Cherokee, and Dragonfly watched three cops, several rangers, and four "cleanup" workers disassemble the vigil and trash it. Jetlag was told later that the workers had been told to throw away the protester's property rather than store it.

No tickets or arrests were made in the sweep, and vigiliers spiritedly decided to file complaints and claims to discourage future foraging. Redtop reports he and the others are more determined than other to continue the Clock vigil. Sympathizers can contact Chief Bassett (429-3700), City Council (429-3550), Supt. Lang (429-3777), or KSCD (12-1 pm) (479-1080).

3 *Or the Santa Cruz City Council, as its paychecks read. Some of its members are actually returning phone calls from homeless activists, though the much ballyhooed "sanctuary for sleepers" of last fall and associated changes in the city's Sleep Ban bane are no longer fit subjects for dicussion in polite society.*

4 *Hitherto known as Jane Yokoyama. We had hoped this progressive protege would break from her blinders and rediscover her independence and compassion for the homeless, which she showed as head of the Human Relations Task Force back in 1988.*

Instead, under the unnatural influence of the former mayor, Yokoyama/HokeyMama has shown signs of becoming the Daughter of Wormhoudtstein! This terrifying transformation into Wormhoudt Jr. is marked by continued silence on the harassment of sleepers and renewed assaults on homeless speakers at City Council meetings. HokeyMama earned her streetname by her oft-repeated claim she would not end the harassment, citation, and arrest of women who slept outside because "camping is unsafe" and "the poor deserve affordable housing, not tents." Masterpieces of simpering hypocrisy, such howlers may yet earn her a place in the Homeless Hall of Shame. Keep tuned to future Street Shit Sheets. (cont.)

**** CONTEMPT FOR COURT: CANKERS FROM THE COUNTY BUILDING ****

***** NO SHOWS FOR THE SHOW-OFFS! Both activist Bathrobespierre Robert Norse and SCPD's "Bumbuster" Butch Baker were AWOL in Maddog Mulligan's Courtroom F last Tuesday for Norse's long-postponed sleeping-without-a-bedroom trial. The more serious misdemeanor "obstructing an officer" charge [for not giving his social security number and birthdate] stemming from the Homeless Independence Day Protest last year was dropped a month ago in the face of fierce resistance from Grit-and-Grace attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich.

Apparently intent on giving up the ghost as quickly and quietly as possible, the city police declined to pursue Norse's remaining camping ticket, leading Grueneich to return to his computer for yet another letter to the Northern California ACLU suggesting they consider a closer look at S.C. police customs.

***** NO SUCH LUCK FOR FORMER ACTIVIST "RODENT," last year's sometime homeless City Council candidate & streetside politician, who found Bumbuster Baker in court and attorney Grinning Ray Grueneich gone, in yet another of the city's costly "sleep no more" court trials. Grueneich checked in several minutes later in time for Rodent's second and third tickets, but the citing officers did not, so the feisty sleepseeker was able to win 2 out of 3, squeaking out a victory of sorts. Rodent reports he is working and no longer roofless, but the long shadow of last summer's Homeless Table citations continues to shade his steps and tie up his Tuesday afternoons.

***** GUNNING FOR THE LARK is Monterey Muni Court Judge Marino, just one county to the South. A successful veteran of many Santa Cruz court battles, peace-and-homeless-rights activist Linda the Lark Edwards tells us "Mustardgas" Marino is about the most nauseating judicial notable she's had the privilege of being dragged in front of. A visiting judge, Marino was going to call Linda down to Monterey for four mornings in a row for "continued arraignment," but on morning 3, Linda forestalled this by securing a local volunteer lawyer.

Charged with "Pedestrian on the freeway," "refusal to leave," & "unlawful assembly ["resisting arrest" was dropped] for a peaceful leafleting march to the gates of Fort Ord in late January, Linda and fifteen others face a cluster of court dates. "Mustardgas" reportedly wanted to add "inciting a riot" but even the prosecutor said no to that one. More of this state humor on

5 For a copy of Bathrobespierre's longwinded oratory opposing police arrests of anti-Groundwar street demonstrators February 24th, see Won Ton Dave at the Clock or call Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom (H.U.F.F.) at 427-1205.

Councilmember Scott Kennedy took unusual if belated initiative to assure Lighteyes her speaking time. "Conservative" John "Mums-the-word" Mahaney complained that police abuse information and concerns about Council inaction constituted "harassing us," but reluctantly agreed to grant three minutes.

6 The Street Shit Sheet announces a small reward for the identification by name and number of this (Badge #351?) and other patriotic greenshirts whose crimebusting campaign is a model for us all.

March 6 in Dept. 1 at 8:15 a.m. Bring your gasmask.

And, locally, Linda faces yet another "witness an arrest--go to jail" charge for observing police harassment downtown (see *Street Shit Sheet #80*). Going before Muni Court Judge "Artichoke Heart" Attack earlier this week, Linda found "resisting arrest" was dropped, but the D.A. drew Artichoke's interest by bragging that Edwards had a rap sheet "this thick!" When the judge drew Linda back to the bench with threats that she'd violated probation, the activist proudly announced she'd never taken probation for any of her past convictions and never would. Attack released her O.R. but his attitude seemed to indicate no sympathy for the potential felon. Edwards goes to pre-trial hearing for "standing in a bicycle lane" on March 21st at 10 a.m. in Dept. C.

ACTIVIST ALERT: AN APPEAL FROM PRARIE-WOLF PATRICE

(Patrice Maxfield, single-mom of 3 and long-time welfare rights activist, has worked with the Welfare Parents Support Group [458-9070] and with RACK [Residents Action Committee for Kindness], a post-earthquake rights group for former St. George Hotel residents. She is now organizing to fight Gov. Wilson's recent cuts in the Cost of Living allowance for folks on AFDC, General Asssistance, and Disability. She can be reached at 423-0806 and at P.O. Box 1735, S.C. 95061. Excerpts from her appeal follow:)

S T O P T H E W A R O N T H E P O O R

...Newly-elected Governor Pete Wilson has plans to keep us in destitution...another form of violation and isolation. His proposal to cut grants by another 10% after last year's vote not to raise COLAs [Cost of Living Allowances] is unacceptable.

...To add insult to injury, Wilson claims that this reduction would not impact one's ability to pay rent, but would only mean that 'they will be buying less six packs of beer.' This is a malicious attempt to stir public hostility toward the poor by implying that we don't really need the money we are receiving, that we are lazy drunks.

...We demand that all Social Service Programs remain the same with plans of raising grants above the federally-defined poverty level until homelessness and poverty are not a way of life in the State of California.

...Along with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, we demand that COLAs, including this year's, be reintroduced for welfare recipients; and that AFDC and SSI be exempted from state cutback triggers.

Coming Up in Street Shit Sheet #87 (or thereafter): A backlog of poetry, peaceflashes, and homeless news from San Francisco, Berkeley, and Santa Barbara. Is there a "lull" in Sleeping Ban Enforcement? Is Sharin' Sherry Conable from the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep sharing homeless funding as well? Is Margaret Marr's Coalition for a Civilian Police Review Commission dead or merely sleeping? The shocking truth behind the nasty rumors. Want to see your name and story in print? Call H.U.F.F. or leave a copy of your submission with Won Ton Dave at the Town Clock.

STREET

SHEET

#87

March 8, 1991

Friday

roofless: 10c

room of your own: 25c

"people seem to be in such nasty moods lately
of course they are they feel the fascist squeeze
nobody wants to turn his back while his brother dies
at night a man walks by a bloated figure
huddled in the niche of an automatic versateller
and looks away his heart constricting
a black bilge of impotence in his guts
his body cries out to make some tender gesture"

--sara menefee², i'm not thousandfurs (1986)

DAWN CRACKDOWN AT TOWN CLOCK; WON TON DAVE BEHIND BARS!

VIGILERS VOW TO CONTINUE 24-HOUR PROTEST UNTIL "REAL PEACE"

After a week of relative peace at the Town Clock's post-ceasefire vigil to bring the troops home, protesters had hoped for a "kindler gentler" relation with Jim "Lebensraum" Lang's greenclad Park Rangers and their sterner sisters, Bassett's² bluebellied SCPD. Indeed, just the day before, Barefoot Brad had had successfully retrieved personal property swooped up in one of the many Ranger Raids of the past month from the city "Barks and Wreck" Dept. In spite of the incessant patrols, unnecessary citations [e.g. for flute-playing on public property], and occasional sign seizures, a regular routine of civilized banter and friendly interchange had developed between the Monument Mounties--Smilin' Sam Cannon and his stiffer sidekick, "Bad Boy" Bowen--and the fun-loving pack of poorly-dressed peaceniks.

But it was not to be. Arriving at first light on Friday morning, 4 cops (in 3 squadcars and a paddywagon) surrounded half a dozen demonstrators and led off Won Ton Dave Jacobs in handcuffs. Spearheading the antisleep squad was the inevitable Officer Butch "Bumbuster" Baker, master of the laconic one-liner, who had noted earlier in the week, "for \$40/hour, I'm

1 *Soursoup Sara, activist and poet from San Francisco's Food Not Bombs, faces criminal prosecution for feeding the homeless in violation of an injunction. On a courtroom carousel of endless court dates, Sara took time out to lead a protest parade through city hall and into superior court in support of FNB's fun-loving Keith McHenry in mid-February.*

McHenry is charged with over a hundred counts of contempt of court for "felonious foodsharing" (i.e. feeding people without the Mayor's permission in defiance of the same 1989 injunction, concocted to drive the homeless out of the Civic Center Plaza). The impish activist packed the courtroom with his supporters, flyered the hallways, and led chants of "Food not Bombs" near the lair of Mayor Art "Busts Not Bread" Agnos.

McHenry faces more judicial jaberwocky on March 22 at 9:30 a.m. in San Francisco Superior Court, Dept. 18. Supporters should gather at Civic Center at 8:30 a.m. ready to feed [and face arrest] or witness. More Info: 415-330-5030.

2 Jack Bassett is Chief Hound of the Santa Cruz Police Dept, Mother of all officially-Mandated Mischief against the homeless, Steadfast Supporter of the Sleeping Ban, and Amiable Architect of "Street People-proof" Mall, now under consideration by Darkness Santa Cruz. Recent reports have it that his Deputy Chief (cont.)

happy to go into court against you guys." Baker's comment this time: "How long are you going to keep this up?" "As long as you keep harassing us," replied one of the group. "That's what they said across the street," rejoined the curt clocktower cowboy; "you don't see them there any more, do you?"²

On an earlier sleeperhunting expedition around 2 AM, Bassett's Blueshirts bagged four blanketed figures asleep at the wrong time, awarding Barefoot Brad, Won Ton Dave, Jetlag Joe, and Tripster taxpayer-funded⁴ sleepcrime citations. Though they threatened to return and arrest within twenty minutes, the slumbersmashers didn't come back to the Clock until 3:15 AM when they caught Joe and Dave stealing sleeptime and gave them a second set of "Get Into Jail Free"⁵ cards.

Raid #3 came at 7 AM with more tickets for Jinglebells Jim, and Redtop Robert--and a jailcell for Won Ton Dave. Dave became the first protester actually arrested and handcuffed for the simple act of sleeping since Jabberwocky Jay, Moonrise Mike, and Paddywagon Pete were hauled in for pillow-plumping in last summer's D.A.-police pogrom against the Post Office Homeless Table.⁶

"Doubletalk" Dunbaugh, has been lauding "sensitivity training" and "liaison" with the gay and lesbian community in hopes of heading off the recent liberal push for a Civilian Police Review Board [more on the Board--see p. 4].

3 Baker refers to the ruf-n-grubby Post Office Homeless Table Vigil/Sleep-Out in support of homeless rights against the City Sleeping Ban, which lasted 7 1/2 months from Nov. 1989 to July 1990. Under the "don't make waves" leadership of the Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep (CSPS) and optimistic Public Defender, Margaret Marr, weary Homeless Tabluhteers closed down the protest in hopes of luring "respectable support" for a legal sleeping sanctuary. The CSPS's effort evaporated after a City Council vote, a symbolic sleep-out, and a "Progressive" election victory in November.

4 Police and court costs for prosecuting even low-grade 6.36 infractions are considerable and mount exponentially when warrants issue because sleepcriminals fail to make courtdates. Police continue to selectively haul in sleepers on "camping warrants" with jail costs alone ranging from \$70-200/day.

5 Though Sleepcrime is technically an infraction, Courthouse Curmudgeon (and Traffic Court Referee) "Maddog" Mulligan has assigned jail for the offense in the past--for those unwilling to perform Community Service (or Community Slavery, as it is termed by the unrepentant). Activist Bubbah Brian Koepke reports that Community Options, the agency which handles C.S., now extorts "fees" --even from the poor: no dough? to jail you go!

6 To up the ante for determined vigilers by making free speech [and the need to sleep] punishable by arrest, police pulled out an obscure section of the city camping ban, 6.36.050, which brands falling asleep twice within 48 hours a "misdemeanor" and so a cause for arrest. D.A.s have never prosecuted anyone under this section. Police use it as a convenient excuse to jail disfavored homeless protesters on charges which are later dropped to

Seized without ceremony or apology was Dave's sign "Police Harassment Does Not Create Peace," as well as other items which Barefoot Brad and his companions tried to claim as community property. Other gear, including food--which had been a favored target on prior police and ranger raids--was left unmolested.

Badge #1467 launched a misinformation campaign that was speedily rejected by the protesters. When confronted with the cop's demand for personal information if they "wanted to speak on behalf of Dave," Jetlag Joe and Treadmill Troy declined to be grilled and suggested the clocktower commandant review the camping citations he'd given them several hours before for clues and possibly the federal constitution for legal guidance.

Would the Bush-dictated ceasefire and the Bassett-led crackdown at the Clock mean an early end to the vigil? Replied Jetlag Joe, "We want to show people that peace can exist even through hardship and harassment. The current police actions are doing nothing but solidfy our determination and purpose." Having secured obscure and rarely-used Parks and Rec. Dept. complaint forms in hand, Joe noted the anti-warriors would make a public record of official abuse at Parks and Rec, at the Police Dept., and at City Hall. As for Won Ton Dave, he was out of jail on O.R. and back at his post in the afternoon noon--but not out of trouble or out of energy--just catching a few winks before the next bust.

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR'S COUCH

***** LIGHTHEARTED LORETO, not Lonato, was the songbird whose wings were clipped by Mayor Jane HokeyMama at the last Somnolent Seven sleepalong [City Council meeting]. As reported in *Street Shit Sheet* #86, after being cut off at Oral Communications, Loreto had to wait an hour and a half to speak for three minutes about a ticket at the Town Clock for "non-obedience to authority."

Though she didn't move the Council to any action or response, Loreto apparently inspired Sgt. Bob "Hobohunter" Hennig, who was "guarding" the proceedings. On March 7, back on the beat, Hennig wrote a ticket for the same offense at the Town Clock in yet another breathtaking display of blueshirt bravado.

***** S.C.I.N. VOTES TO BACK POLICE REVIEW--and that's good news, right? The Santa Cruz Inaction Network[®], after some

infractions [which do not require jury trials, pre-trial hearings, and court-appointed public defenders. The misdemeanor sleeping charge can theoretically cost 6 months in jail and/or \$1000 [cont.] file [and possibly more under a new city council ordinance passed last fall--see next Street Shit Sheet].

7 Be the first on your streetcorner to win the hottest and hippies new parkside pastime--Name That Sleepslayer! The *Street Shit Sheet* is offering miniscule prizes for sharp-eyed bystanders, who can provide full names for pesky patrolpeople and amusing anecdotes about these paddywagon personnel including actual dialogue. Leave your entries with Jetlag Joe and Redtop Robert at the Clock; they can also provide you with *Fight That Ticket!* flyers and police complaint/city claim forms. If you actually witness or experience abuse, contact SPAN (Stop Police Abuse Now! at 475-2012). (cont.)

eloquent appeals from Sharin' Sherry Conable, Simmerin' Simba, Moxie Margaret Marr, and others actually voted to make a Civilian Review Board one of four priority projects for 1991--in fact, it was #1 in the SCAN voting.

Only problem is that SCAN voted to endorse the Board last year as well, but then did nothing. It also voted to make Homelessness and Affordable Housing one of its priority projects last year--but it took a special meeting of SCAN last fall to get it to undo its Don Lane-led vote against the right to sleep and to finally endorse the CSPS's tame sanctuary-for-sleepers.

Rudely banished to the frosty hinterlands was a proposal from Bathrobespierre Robert Norse, asking that SCAN endorse non-violent CD by the homeless if there's no legal place to sleep when the Satellite Shelter program ends in April. Motormouth Mike Rotkin, former Somnolent Seven chairwarmer, wielded his granite gravel and refused to allow the SCAN membership a vote on the idea. Rotkin did allow Linda the Lark Edwards' "Support the Town Clock Peace Vigil" resolution, but at presstime, we were still unable to find out how the vote went.

***** LINDA THE LARK'S LAMENT : Too many courtrooms, not enough sleep! Linda's still recovering from judicial aftershocks from her January anti-war activities. On March 21st at 10 a.m. in Dept. C., she faces a pretrial for misdemeanor "standing in a bicycle lane" in another Hennig-inspired extravaganza--the Sgt.'s punishment for her insistence on witnessing a harassment ticketing of two peace demonstrators in a car.

On April 3rd, Linda and 4 others from the Fort Ord 16 return to Dept. 1 of Monterey Municipal Court to face charges of unlawful assembly, blocking the road, and failure to disperse. Dr, perhaps, being insufficiently proud of our fighting-and-bombing boys-and-girls overseas. In plain English, they had a peaceful march to the forbidden gates of Fort Ord and will now be forced to pay the piper. For support calls, donations, contact Linda c/o H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) at 427-1205.

Postscript: Linda's house--her van--was released by police and towing yard terrorists on payment of the \$100+ blackmail fee. On leaving the Anarchist Coffee House, some weeks ago, Linda was stopped by Officer "Brassheart" Bracher, who had apparently been waiting for her. Though proof of insurance is no longer required, the DMV suspended Linda's license for not having enough money to buy it last year. Bracher ticketed her for driving on a suspended license, then refused offers by three licensed drivers to drive her van to a legal parking place. Linda intends to bring this incident of harassment and discrimination to the attention of City Council through use of a claim against the city. Insiders give low odds on any remedial action.

NEXT ISSUE: Benches on the mall? Parks in Berkeley? War with Iran? Sunset for the Street Shit Sheet? Tune in, turn on, and sleep out.

8 Or SCAN (Santa Cruz Action Network), the political muscle behind the "progressive" majority on City Council. It acts to elect its friends, but subsides into silence when those progressives continue anti-homeless policies indistinguishable from those of conservatives.

STREET

SHEET

#88

April 25, 1991

Thursday

price: those not roofless--50c those outside--10c or borrow

"I saw one of the street guys/ thin, no real age,
Time had collapsed around his elbows/ and his floppy tennis shoes.

He was pushing the war around in his shopping cart:
Missiles, cardboard meals, tank treads/ mashing the moon at night

When he let them out, speeches, sand, his old sleeping bag,

And factory processed body bags tangled up.

Water canteens and a wine bottle/ both empty.

Dog tags and a kitten/ peeing on next month's newspapers.

He doesn't need camouflage;/ no one ever looks at him,

But one of his wheels on the shopping cart was loose

And squeaking a little. /I looked up./ The war rolled on."

--"I Saw One of the Street Guys," Julia Vinograd, (unpub, 1991)

Inside: p.1: Vigil Update; p.3: Town Clock Demo Manifesto;
p.4: Food Not Bombs Arrested; Sharin' Sherry Strikes; p. 5: Maddog
Mulligan vs. Midlife Mike, Undercover Begging, Linda Faces Jury
for Fort Ord Action; p. 6: Zinotto's Dusts Homeless, Bulah Park
Campground?; p. 7: Curfew Carousel; p. 10: Yesterday's Heroes.

LULL IN POLICE HARASSMENT AS PEACE VIGIL PASSES HUNDREDDTH DAY VIGILERS FACE POSITIVE PUBLIC RESPONSE BUT DOZENS OF TRIALS

Two months after the San Jose's Peace Vigil at the Federal Building there collapsed, Santa Cruz's own Town Clock Peacewatch marked its 100th day April 24th. Going into their fourth month of 24-hour opposition to Bush's bloody restoration of the Kuwaiti emir (no Kurds, Shiites, and Palestinians, thank you), the half-dozen faithful sign-toters reported increased support from the citizenry, ranging from 'thumbs up' and 'V' peace signs by passing motorists, to nightly food drops from sympathetic but anonymous local restaurants. Reports from the San Jose vigil, indicate it disintegrated in late February or early March, disrupted by police harassment, withdrawn liberal support, and undercover nark activity.

Locally "Won Ton" Dave Jacobs and the small but persistent circle of tattered Peaceketeers continue to call for real peace in the Middle East (see p. 3). By day Jetlag Joe Selinsky and by night Redtop Robert Flory have maintained their continuous presence for peace at the Clock, terming their demonstration "the Town Clock Vigil for Peace and Justice." Whether it's the onset of spring, Redtop's appeal of the newly-imposed 1 AM- 8 AM curfew, or a mellower attitude on the part of "Lebensraum" Jim Lang's Parks and Recreation [P&R] Department, the protesters report a definite decrease in the intensity of harassment and number of tickets.

Even the omnipresent Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig seemed more temperate, donning his dreaded 'gloves of doom' on Tuesday afternoon (usually the signal for a legalized raiding expedition), only to return the "Sgt. Hennig Trashes Vigil Again" sign to its resting place. Perhaps the placard sparked memories for the stern sergeant. Surfing on a surge of adrenalin in early April, Hennig issued three more costly¹ Public Nuisance tickets and dragged off

¹ The city and county have not had a full-fledged Public Nuisance trial involving homeless protesters. The first (cont.)

Won Ton Dave for demanding a property receipt for his "Is a peace vigil a place for police to pillage?" protest sign. In a highly unusual move radio station KUSP broadcast a full report of the early April incident complete with demonstrators' demands that Hennig resign, questions about the legality of his sign and property seizure, and an overview linking the incident with harassment of the homeless downtown.

A final upsurge of police surveillance and harassment followed the ominous "dead of night" curfew passed by the City Parks and Rec Commission April 1st (see p. 7). Three thousand-dollar signs posted a week later were uprooted and relettered during the night, but quickly replaced by the city, which posted park rangers the next day to prevent further depredations of its model fascist theme park. With local reporters lurking about, authorities were reluctant to move. A long-suffering Channel 9 reporter from Salinas staked out the clock with notepad and video camera from the cover of the bicycle shelter across the street for three hours without success for several nights running.

Officers finally struck at dawn on the morning of April 13th, issuing five infraction tickets for curfew violation. His nose dipped deep into law books and the city code, Won Ton Dave discovered a week later that no tickets could be issued pending appeal, apparently invalidating the preemptive strike. Indeed, no further curfew stops have been made.

However, county prosecution of the vigilers grinds on without pause. For three months, Bassett's Bumbusters and Lebensraum's Legionaires have carpetbombed the peace vigil with harassment, tickets, arrests, and property seizures. "Won Ton" Dave, on the scene since the second day of the Vigil, reports dozens of 'camping' tickets, sometimes for sleeping, sometimes for covering up with a blanket against the cold. He faces an endless chain of court appearances for such sinister behaviors as "sitting on the fountain" and "too large a protest sign."² Taxpayers will be footing the bill for numerous jury trials for "Public Nuisance" (being present with protest material, signs, and survival gear) and "interfering with an officer/resisting arrest" (refusing to give up a protest sign that the police wanted to confiscate).

Redtop Robert Flory, Meandering Mike Gyth, Linda the Lark Edwards, Barefoot Brad, Jughead Joe, Banshee Brian, and many others have amassed the most stunning collection of police and park ranger demerit certificates since last year's 8-month long Homeless Table's Sleepout Against the Sleeping Ban. Redtop Robert, recently a homeless Cabrillo student and still an active participant in Cabrillo's Students for Social Responsibility, has actually gathered more "Public Nuisance" citations [4] than any of last year's veterans.³

of Jabberwocky Jay's Public Nuisance charges went through over a dozen preliminary hearings last year costing tens of thousands of dollars before being dropped. Had the D.A. gone to trial, the cost would have risen substantially.

² Though Won Ton Dave was arrested for having a protest sign 'larger than 14" on a side', police declined to even ticket or talk with conservative demonstrators on April 23rd who showed up with blank picket signs and blocked the sidewalk. Lt. Larsen declined to interfere and Sgt. Hennig hastened to explain afterwards that handheld signs could be longer than 14".

CONCERNS OF THE TOWN CLOCK VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

(The vigilers and their supporters are a mixed bag with different opinions, but the following statement is generally agreed to by the participants.)

- (a) Stop arming the warring governments, justice for Palestinians and Kurds, a truly multi-lateral UN policy;
- (b) Halt unilateral use of U.S. military force, essentially without Congressional consultation in pursuit of poll-pleasing objectives that change daily.
- (c) Expose the shameless hypocrisy, utter opportunism, and the fabric of lies surrounding the real origins, conduct, and beneficiaries of Bush's Oil War;
- (d) Halt media complicity with Pentagon censorship and the government PR campaign to boost its military prowess and budget.
- (d) End the glorification of soldier mercenaries, whose intervention has caused hundreds of thousands of death, an ecological disaster, and untold civilian misery in the Middle East: "Flags and Ribbons? No! Brains and Hearts? Yes!"

For Peace and Justice at home:

- (a) An end to harassment of protesters and homeless people at the Town Clock--including the dropping of charges against those already victimized, the return of 'confiscated' property, and an overhaul of police procedures now used to target SCPD 'enemies.'
- (b) An end to the 1 AM to 8 AM curfew at the Town Clock. (See story below)
- (c) The creation of a liberated area where people feel free to demonstrate and gather, regardless of class or color, where they can come without having to pay or pander any time of the day or night.
- (d) A living demonstration to the repressive forces in Santa Cruz that peace can be lived 24 hours a day, that those who support peace will not be driven away, however bizarre and bothersome the creative harassment tactics of the police, however odious the lies of local media, however obnoxious the pressure of city bureaucrats.

your rulers and rulebooks ready, folks!

3 The legendary Jabberwocky Jay Green, Homeless Table die-hard and inspiration of last year's 4th of July rally for Homeless Rights fought lengthy discovery battles, seeking to show a conspiracy to violate civil rights by the police department and D.A.'s office. He, Linda the Lark, Paddywagon Pete, and others fought Public Nuisance charges which were eventually dismissed after Jay and the others [but not Linda] were talked into a sweetheart deal to take down the Post Office Homeless Table disappear into the bushes.

Bedton Robert, Jetlag Joe, and Won Ton Dave face up to 1 year

#####SHADOWS ON THE SIDEWALK#####

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN THE SHADOW OF CITY HALL is still sending *Food Not Bombs* volunteers to jail in San Francisco in their twice-daily free food giveaways at the S.F. Civic Center Plaza. A compliant Superior Court judge threw out the many contempt citations against street chef Keith McHenry in March, but renewed and extended the 1987 injunction against outdoor food distribution 'without a permit.' [The city has refused to issue *FNB* a permit, even though it has met their standards.]

McHenry was then arrested outside the courtroom on a bogus traffic warrant and charged with 'resisting arrest,' 'inciting a riot,' and 'seizing an officer's gun,' when fifty or so demonstrators angrily sat down in the halls and stairway to protest. Reportedly an intoxicated off-duty police officer left his weapon in the car but in a fog of panic thought that the gun lifted by one of the *FNB* supporters. Police have renewed soup-seizing expeditions against the noon and dusk meals, arresting four people in mid-April. McHenry and four supporters face multiple misdemeanor charges in Muni Court May 15th.

FNB's Skylark Sara Menefee⁴ still faces an endlessly-postponed jury trial in S.F. Muni Court for grub giveaway last year, though Muni Court Judge Lillian has offered to put her into a diversion program where she will be ordered to serve free food for *Food Not Bombs*. Though supporters find the irony of the sentence a treat, Skylark is unamused by the absurdity of the Judge's antics. "I'm not copping a plea on this while they continue to arrest my brothers and sisters for the same thing," she commented acidly. She plans to demand her trial within forty-five days.

THE MOTHER OF ALL MEDIATORS STRIKES AGAIN! Seems Sharin' Sherry Conable of the *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep* has gotten herself appointed to the Parks & Rec SubCommittee to mediate with Town Clock demonstrators, now that P&R has outlawed them after 1 AM at night. Though the Vigilers have reportedly neither sought out Conable's help, nor been invited to the negotiations themselves, Sharin' Sherry has again involved herself in another effort to "depolarize the city."

Sharin' Sherry's past accomplishments as politically-correct shepherd to a docile group of hand-picked homeless include

in jail and \$1000 fine per charge for a total of 7 "Nuisance" counts. Growlin' Greg Cobin, Robert's fighting PD, vows to defend Robert's roadside rights to the limit if he can't persuade the youth to shave, get a haircut, and abandon his vulnerable outdoor free speech pasttime. Robert's response thus far: "Shoot your television."

4 Previously slandered as "Soursoup Sara," Menefee satisfied customers have petitioned for a namechange. Rechristened "Skylark," Sara is a published poet, a reporter for *People's Tribune*, and an unshakable speaker at rallies for the rights of the homeless. Skylark: "the common Old World lark, noted for its song, as it rises in almost perpendicular flight."

(1) a partially successful attempt to derail July 4th demonstrations during Homeless Independence Day last year; (2) an unsuccessful attempt to establish an emergency sanctuary campground in the fall that blackballed militants and split the homeless movement into ineffectuality; and (3) a ravenous request for \$359,000 in homeless funds to set up a Day Center that will put a smile on the face of merchants, police, and mayor by luring humble travelers and impoverished citizens to remove their blemished bodies from the fashionable downtown.

Left dangling in the wind all winter along with the fate of dozens of ticketed homeless sleepers and the reputations of slandered homeless militants, has been the fabled Safe Place to Sleep, which has been unceremoniously dumped as too unfashionable a cause. Conable's distaste for the Town Clock Vigil as an unwashed affront to the more 'respectable' activists in town is fairly well-known. She made no public defense of the vigilers' rights before City Council or P & R, and criticized the vigilers outside Council chambers. Given her position and her history, her current role as mistress of 'conflict-resolution' showboating walks the line between the nauseating and the ridiculous.

CRIMINAL COVER-UP FOR MID-LIFE MIKE Mishler was the verdict in Maddog John Mulligan's Traffic Court last week. Mishler, a peace and homeless activist who has gone indoors and is now working full-time as a computer operator, was caught keeping warm at 4 AM at the Town Clock in early February. In 35 degree weather, Mishler got ticketed for sitting up wrapped in a sleeping bag while wide awake. Overcoats only allowed, ruled Mulligan, the D.A.'s darling. Mishler, one of the working poor, plans an expose on how local homeless services discriminate against those who work. Look to see his outspoken newsmonthly, *Watcha Want?*, in a gutter of your choice in the near future. Call 425-3113 if you have a poem, protest, or proclamation for his homeless rag.

SPARE CHANGE STING OPERATION? That's what Juglover Joseph ran into outside Zachary's a few weeks back. Seems undercover cops actually walk the block jingling change in their pockets in search of desperate beggars. Joseph himself was apparently snared for seeking a coin from the copperclanging cops. For those who find this funny, remember that local judges have been giving panhandlers 3-6 months for repeat offenses.

Merchant paranoia against begging is being used to usher in a kind of street fascism with New Order police practices against homeless and transient people in order to "encourage investment." This kind of mercantile cynicism is both astounding and sickening. As recently as 1988, bureaucratic bigots and yellow journalists were restrained enough to use bogus but well-ballyhooped *public safety* concerns as a cover for their policia-state preferences ("machete maniacs on the mall"). Now, it seems, just blathering about bucks is enough to sanction a new mall devoid of bushes, stripped of benches, ramrod straight, lined with unsittable planters, cleansed of undesirables, and designed without bike lanes. To stop this *Darkness Santa Cruz* nightmare, get your ass to the upcoming Streetscape Sub-Committee hearing (call 429-3045 for details).

PROFESSIONAL PROTESTERS TAKE NOTE! The heavy hand of Monterey County justice was stayed from smacking Linda the Lark

Edwards across the chops by timely solidarity from her 14 co-defendants. Charged with a pastiche of crimes for a peaceful CD demonstration at Fort Ord in late January, the peace group was offered a plea bargain, dropping charges of 'resisting arrest,' 'interfering with an officer' and other creative fictions down to 'pedestrian in the roadway' with a \$20 fine. The tradeoff: Linda alone, as the judge-designated 'professional protester' [salaried sit-ins?] would still face a misdemeanor jury trial.

No thanks, said the tight-and-tough group, keep your deals. Well, we'll drop the charges on Edwards, returned Dept. 1's presiding judicial bigot, but we'll charge her \$100. So angered was the group that some of them have decided to demand jury trials unless all charges are dropped. Jury selection for Edwards' trial begins May 17th at 11 AM.

MORE ROTTEN RETURNS FROM ZINOTO'S? Long-time readers may recall last April when Santa Cruz's largest downtown grocery store declared Linda the Lark Edwards and other homeless people unwelcome because of their appearance. Several days of picketing that asked customers to turn in inquiry forms to the management seemed to produce something of a change of attitude. (Out of too much concern for 'rebuilding the downtown,' we didn't call for a boycott of the Granny of all Groceries, but just had an informational picket.)

But lately Grim the Wanderer reports an attempt to use food stamps there was met with uncompromising hostility. Are you finding your local food emporium's attitude a little too rich for your blood? Let us know. Might be time to call on a sympathetic attorney. How about a Bill of Rights for the homeless downtown as requested of the Gang of 7^e last summer?

A HAVEN IN THE HILLS? Linda the Lark may have our gizzard for suggesting it, but one-time Council candidate John Mills reminded us the other day of the long-vacant Bulah Park area with dozens of cabins on several acres of land up near Pasatiempo. Dangerous Dan Green suggested buttonholing a compassionate moviestar and buying the Park for renovation. Mills, in his unsuccessful fall campaign, opposed the River St. sanctuary area but supported Bulah Park.

We support both and several small legalized sleeping areas within the city limits (Linda's proposal). The winter Satellite Shelter program will end within a week, throwing over fifty people into 'criminal sleeper' status. If the *Coalition for a Safe Place to Sleep* has gone into hibernation, perhaps the activists need to forcefully bring the issue (and the sleepers) to the doors of City Council and wake up our Somnolent 7.^e

6 *The Laird and Wormhoudt Councils earned the sobriquet Gang of 7 for their flickering hostility and unremittent hypocrisy towards homeless rights issues from 1988 through 1990. The advent of the Yokoyama regime seemed to have more promise. Indeed it's pretty much been all promise as the grave Council slumbered throughout the winter with not so much as a snore in the direction of decriminalizing homelessness.*

On the plus side, it must be admitted that the Satellite Shelter Program got a few more bucks, the city police have been less flagrant in their Sleepbusting expeditions, and the Mayor has come out for a (Not in Our Downtown) Day. Center Kennedy (cont.)

JAILHOUSE JAWS SNAPPED SHUT ON two community gadflies and nearly-claimed one more in the last month or so. Resolute Ray Gordon, citizen-at-law, gives seminars to the homeless on how to exercise little known rights protected by the preamble and declaration of independence. Though jailing paupers is supposedly barred by the 13th amendment abolishing slavery, Ray got locked up for driving without a license. For him and for others, government seizure of your property and person because you can't afford insurance is straight criminal conspiracy against the poor

Also taken straight to jail was backdoor barrister, Grinning Ray Grueneich, for carrying a sign through the Superior Courts that denounced Bush's blood-drenched holiday a week ago Thursday celebrating the butchery in Iraq. Ray was particularly incensed that local judicial blackrobes decreed that folks show up only to have their cases put over. Superior Court to the rest of us: Free speech is fine, but not in my court.

Dragged by baliff and policeman from the courtroom of Traffic Referee Maddog Mulligan for wearing a "Fuck War" t-shirt was everyone's favorite badboy--Bathrobespierre Robert Norse. Told that his message was 'obscene,' Bathrobespierre admitted that 'war' was a profane word, but one that had to be dealt with. He returned to court several times later that afternoon, once covering up the upper half of his shirt with the logo "Censored by Order of the Traffic Court Referee."

PARKS & REC BENDS OVER FOR CONSTITUTION BLACKOUT AT CLOCK PETITION DRIVE URGES COUNCIL REVERSAL OF CURFEW MAY 14TH

In March when Deputy Police Chief Michael "Doubletalk" Dunbaugh sought 'closing hours' at the Town Clock before the City Parks and Recreation Commission, his nighttime suspension of the Constitution did not even receive the dignity of a second. After a brazen and eloquent response from the street-hardened voice of 'Won Ton' Dave Jacobs, the motion to lock down the clock after dark died a quiet and unexpected death.

Since Parks and Rec has a history of jumping when Parks Superintendent 'Lebensraum' Jim Lang squeaks, its uncharacteristically independent behavior here seemed heartening and highly unusual. After all, when homeless activists Bubbah Brian and Bathrobespierre Robert proposed an hour of free showers a week for homeless people out at Harvey West in April of 1989, the Commission backed up the 'too complex and expensive' coverstory of Lang and vetoed the idea.

Again, when Koepke proposed at least one 24-hour park where penny-poor late-night owls could sit and talk without dusk-to-dawn police harassment, Lang's NIMBY mindset was law, and the Commission fell over itself to back him up. In yet another undercover bureaucratic coup last fall, Lang ordered the removal of nearly half a dozen benches in the Metro-Mall area, without public hearing or discussion, in response to requests from favored merchants wanting to 'cattleherd' deadheads, transients, and homeless people down the road: not a peep from the Commission. Finally and most tellingly, the Commission's silence has been

and Beiers deserve particular mention for sensitivity to homeless input at City Council and opposition to the New Order mall plans respectively. The Council's actions on the P&R Town Clock curfew (the Council after 4 AM) will be instructive.

deafening as Lang's Legionnaires have spent thousands of citizen collars initiating trials that will cost the county tens of thousands more to harass the Town Clock peace vigil with a swarm of arcane tickets ("minor in possession of tobacco," "sitting on the fountain ledge," "protest sign more than 14" in size," "not sitting down when talking to a ranger,"⁷ etc.)

Given this lickspittle background, observers were amazed at the Commission's sudden spurt of sanity and independence. Bureaucrats and bigots, however, were not done. Councilmember John Baloney⁸ introduced a communication asking that staff investigate instituting a curfew and a fence at the Clock to deter unsavory demonstrators. Councilmembers Beiers and Kennedy retorted that their Washington, D.C. trip had shown them homeless people sitting, lying, and sleeping all over the monuments there--something that deepened rather than sullied their respect for the historic places.

Unfortunately, progressive-by-day, regressive-by-night, chameleons Mayor Jane HokeyMama and Vice-Mayor Gone Lamé gave Baloney and Councilmerchant Louis Rottenhouse the votes they needed. In the "keep office and avoid controversy" tradition of former Mayors Wormhault and Laird, they voted to send Baloney's 'close down the clock' plan back to Parks & Rec for study and recommendation. Simpering she supported an examination of the issue, and 'other avenues such as conflict resolution,' HokeyMama swept this Constitution-clipping scheme back to Lang's Lair. A clear victory for 'conservatives' interested in conserving city areas for conservative citizens, this move was a signal to the Parks & Rec chickens who had taken temporary control of the henhouse from Foxy Jim, to stop squawking about rights and bend over.

The City Council action provided ammunition to crush the brief P&R rebellion. Whereas, P&R had formerly concluded, quite reasonably, that 'closing hours' for an area that had never been posted as a park was a heavy-handed and untenable idea, now a wholly artificial pretext was concocted, presenting the preposterous claim that somehow city workers needed 7 hours (1 AM-8 AM) to 'clean' the clock area. So thin and obvious was this cover story, that P&R heard no testimony that there was any

⁷ In early April, Park Ranger Curbstone Kip was giving Jetlag Joe a ticket for 'inappropriate sitting' and then demanded Joe sit down. When he refused to do so, saying he felt comfortable standing, the caustic Kip gave him a second citation for 'disobedience to authority.' Having once been burned for 'sitting without a permit,' would Jetlag face a second ticket for doing so under orders--maybe so, suggested some wild-eyed wags.

Recently Town Clock regulars have been muttering at the apparent change in Curbstone. Previously a model of lemon-tight surliness, the clockwatching Ranger has reportedly been seen conversing amiably with the ragamuffin crew and one watcher swears the stern soldier-of-fortune was actually seen smiling.

⁸ Known to City Council aficionados as John Mahaney and hitherto ignored by the Street Shit Sheet as an honest but hopeless reactionary on homeless issues. His ridiculous 'fence' proposal for the Town Clock and--worse--its divisive consequences

difficulty whatsoever in the morning cleanup.⁹

Yokoyama weighed in with a quote in the *Santa Cruz Urinal* as denouncing 'defecation' at the Vigil and has never retracted this inflammatory lie. [No tickets have been issued for this offense, or urinating.] Only Kennedy and Beiers have seriously expressed interest recently in opening up all-night restroom facilities downtown; if the Mayor were interested in cleaning up the downtown, she might start with this obvious first step.

Naturally this kind of political pressure from on high had its effect. P&R voted 5-2, April 1st, after some grumbling, to establish the first-ever 'dead of night' curfew there. The ridiculous idea that all citizens should be divested of their nighttime free assembly rights to enable the city to further harass one disfavored group was enshrined in law. If the demonstrators move across the street to the site of the old Homeless Table, will that area too be ruled a forbidden zone? How about if they go to City Hall for the night (as Sleeping Bag protesters did right after the earthquake)? Will P&R suddenly discover another previously unknown "city park" there that needs to be walled off at night? Would the merchants prefer that the vigilers move in front of the businesses that are so happy with this unconstitutional curfew?

In 1988 merchants and the mayor initiated the infamous Soupsnatching raids by baton-wielding policemen in full riot gear because activist Calamity Jane Imler marched in a Baglady's Parade and announced a vigil at the Town Clock to protest violence against the homeless. The shame and stupidity of that campaign cast long shadows. Santa Cruz police jailed dozens and made the city a laughing stock across the nation. Are we about to see a repeat of this foolishness?

Ah, say some liberals, can't 'legitimate groups' simply apply for permits at the Clock if they want to hold an all-night protest? What will be the criterion for such permits? Who will be Lord High Judge of the Legitimate Cause? And who will pay the fees for this friendly process? Who will pay for the attorney to take the matter to court when the permit is denied? When *HUFF* (*Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom*) applied for a one-night permit on the San Lorenzo benchlands to have a tent city in solidarity with Housing Now!'s March on Washington in October 1989, city bureaucrats met for hours and demanded fees and insurance that would total \$1200 or more.

Adding hypocrisy to harassment, P&R also established a small sub-committee headed by Elizabeth Schick to investigate and mediate the Town Clock protest 'problem.'¹⁰ Vet's Advocate Nora

⁹ Vigilers regularly sweep the Clock area. Police raids now require them to be able to hold all their possessions in their hands or lose them as "trash" or "evidence of a Public Nuisance." So those who vigil through the night there don't really have much property remaining there. Cops have seized blankets and bedding, with judges ruling [see p.5] that keeping warm is criminal camping. This being so, defamatory accusations about 'mountains of debris' are all the more odious. Finally, vigilers report they cooperate quite carefully with cleanup crews when they do arrive.

¹⁰ Their first meeting is Sunday April 28th 3 PM at City Council chambers; it is reportedly open to the public. [See also "The Mother of All Mediators Strikes Again" p. 4.]

Hochmann pointed out that establishing a 'conflict resolution' group was irrelevant, disingenuous, and insulting, since P&R had already unilaterally resolved the issue by decreeing that anyone with a sign and candle after 1 AM was a criminal. What was left to be discussed? Proper outfits to wear when arrested?

Prior City Council debate on the Mahaney motion created expectations that this P&R curfew vote would return as an advisory to the Council. Indeed, inquiries to P&R as to how to appeal the matter met with confusion and uncertainty. But when the matter did not appear on the next City Council agenda, vigilera were informed that the curfew had gone into effect on April 1st, the day it was passed, and that the time to appeal it had almost elapsed. Councilmember Kennedy learned he had passed beyond the 5-day period allowed for Councilmembers to bring such matters back to Council. Town Clock peace vigilera Jetlag Joe Selinsky attempted to appeal within the 10-day period allotted the general citizenry, but was refused because he could not afford the \$50 appeal fee. Finally, ten minutes before the deadline, Redtop Robert Flory presented the City Clerk with \$50 he had gotten from attorneys and supporters, and set the appeal.

The matter is scheduled to reach City Council on May 14th. Meanwhile Town Clockwatchers are circulating petitions ("No Curfew for the Constitution") urging the Council to reverse the P&R coup. But since that coup was sparked by the Council's action on the Mahaney memo in the first place, few hold out much hope the Somnolent Seven will reinstate the Constitution at a second reading.

But Bill of Rights buffs are active nonetheless. The petition and related literature can be speedily obtained from your friendly local war protester at the Town Clock. Or call Bathrobespierre Robert at 427-1205 and leave your number. Members of peace groups whose picketing rights are also threatened are invited to join the rest of us and call City Council at 429-3550 or write them at 809 Center St. The liberties you save will be your own.



+++++WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ...LOUDMOUTH LEITH AUSTIN ? now-you-see-him, now-you-don't "Die Yuppie Scum" dialectician, who faced down the Wormhoudtasaurus at City Council last year, talking truth to power last spring at City Council. Back from tye-die sabbatical in Florida and sentenced to wander the Free Meal for his crimes, Leith (or "Rainbow" as his pronies call him) is planning a Homeless Talent Show and invites musicians, comedians, and ecdysiasts of all ages to belly up to the sign-up list out at the River St. Free Meal.

Up and Coming: More "Whatever Became Of"s, Squatting in NYC by Hotline Horace, Blackbadge Bassett squares off against the Coalition for a Police Review Commission; Will the Coalition continue its exclusion of ban-me-not Bathrobespierre?, the latest update from SPAN (Stop Police Abuse Now!) (475-2012, for those

STREET

SHEET

#89

May 2, 1991

Thursday

limited funds?: 10c paying rent?: 25c flat broke: free

"After another day of humiliation,
Sleeping, freezing, isolated, divided,
Penniless, jobless, wheezing, dirty
Skin wrapped around cold bones--that's us...
Shudders so familiar to us, shivers so intimate,
Our hands finally close and clench
After another day panhandling, tongues hanging out,
Dogs ate more today or curled at the feet of beds
Can belch, fart, have hospitals they can be taken to,
They'll come out of houses and sniff us dead one day,
Pieces of shit lying scattered here
In an American city reknowned for its food and culture.
...We want the empty offices collecting dust!
We want the movie houses from midnight til dawn.
We want the churches open twenty-four gods a day."

--from "Home" *The Bottom Line* (1988) by Jack Hirschman

JUDICIAL HYSTERIA BANS TWO FROM CLOCK WITHOUT TRIAL

SCPD PLUNDERING PARTIES PLAGUE CLOCK VIGIL AFTER LONG LULL

An irregular proclamation from the bench of Senior Muni Court Judge "Kangaroo" Tom Kelly¹ banished peace vigiler 'Won Ton' Dave Jacobs from the Town Clock last Friday (April 26th). A second imperial banning edict from Kangaroo's Courtroom C followed on Tuesday April 30th. That morning, a brief outburst of judicial abuse against Redtop Robert Flory was led into a sorry spectacle in which the homeless peace activist was detained in court, searched, locked in a judicial holding area, humiliated, and divested of his free assembly rights--again without trial.

The banning of 'Won Ton' Dave came at a hearing during which Sgt. "Hobohunter" Bob Hennig² intervened to add another "Public Nuisance" charge to the rainbow robed rebel's list of offenses. Several weeks before Hennig had seized Won Ton's pack when the activist was off using restroom facilities. Unable to seize his prey, Hennig made due with Redtop Robert, one of the Town Clock's chess champions and gave him misdemeanor Nuisance ticket instead for "watching backpacks." Kelly reportedly declined to level a second Nuisance charge against 'Won Ton' but instead came up with a thunderbolt from the bench: In an extraordinary and extralegal command, the former D.A. imposed a pretrial order: Won Ton was barred from the Town Clock and surrounding grounds.

1 So called because of his unrelenting practice of bouncing in 'hopstep' behind the SCPD and and the D.A.'s office with their flurry of flimsy charges to drive homeless demonstrators out of public view and back into the bushes. Last year police and prosecutors harried Jabberwocky Jay Green and others with patently discriminatory 'Public Nuisance' charges to abort their Post Office Homeless Table Vigil.

Kelly rubberstamped police seizures of homeless survival gear as "evidence" in a transparent attempt to punish demonstrators before trial. Kelly was also instrumental in gutting a discovery motion by Jabberwocky's PD, Margaret Marr, that sought to expose the conspiracy between Bassett Blanketburglars and Danner's D.A.s to selectively harass and prosecute Sleeping Ban foes. (cont.)

The issue is a particularly thorny one since protesters have appealed a recent City Parks and Recreation Commission decision 'closing the Clock' between 1 AM and 8 AM [for cleaning' in the barebones balderdash of the Commission] A City Charter provision suspends all ticketing under the "curfew on the Constiution" [as merry opponents dub it] until the May 14th public appeal is heard by the City Council.³ Kelly's decision to impose a ban two weeks before the Council hearing shows a certain impatience with fundamental constitutional rights. "Won Ton" has faithfully made his court dates and stands innocent of the hokey "Public Nuisance" charges at least until he faces a jury.

On Tuesday morning, Redtop Robert, who had formally appealed the Town Clock curfew in mid-April, waited quietly in court to be arraigned on the second of four Nuisance charges then pending against him for round-the-clock vigiling. Since the hearing was also being held on D.A. motion to consolidate charges, Redtop's court-appointed but acid-tongued attorney, Growlin' Greg Cobin, wondered why the D.A.'s office wasn't ready with its files of a second case. To Cobin's chagrin, Redtop chimed in that (at that time) there were five Nuisance charges in all.

At this, Kangaroo Kelly exploded in controlled fury. He abruptly dropped any pretense of judicial impartiality and snapped he would raise bail on Redtop if the blanket-clad picketeer were arrested again for rudely asserting his rights against the wishes of the SCPD. Countered Cobin, "that would be preventive detention, your honor, and that's illegal." "That's it!" Kelly burst out, "this Clock stuff has got to stop. Take him into custody." At which point, Robert was hauled downstairs, put in

2 Hennig's unrepentant crimes against the homeless community number in the dozens, none of which have earned him any public censure or retraining from his boss, Policechief Blackbadge Bassett. A stoneface master of harassment, Hennig's rapsheet includes seizure of homeless property, self-professed 'cattleherding' of street people on the mall, brutalization of guitarist Mike Hobson last May, endless tickets for 'criminal sitting' [on planters] and 'criminal sleeping' [anywhere outside in city limits between 11 PM and 8:30 AM], and a possessive tendency to regard the mall as his own property:

Two weeks ago Hennig came up to Jurytrial Jeff and Groundhog Joe on the mall near the Metro Center and told him, "this isn't a park; you guys need to get some exercise." Returning a few minutes later, Hennig reportedly amplified: "Okay, your time's up. Leave!" Intimidated, they left. Later that night, Jurytrial reported, Hennig's squadcar screeched up to them: "Get the fuck out of here!" was followed by "You and me, hickenman, are going to have a run-in; get the fuck off my street." Hennig won points for candor, but witnesses concluded he was better suited to running a chain gang in the old South than sidewalk duty in Santa Cruz.

3 Traffic Court Referee Maddog Mulligan also has had a hard time reading and accepting the plain words of the Charter. When Linda the Lark Edwards and Meandering Michael Gyrth brought the relevant section to his attention during their arraignment for 'curfew violation,' the unreconstructed prosecutor-in-blackrobes refused to quash the bogus tickets, demanded notarized copies of the document, and demanded the two return to court for trial in early June.

the dock with criminals and suspects in custody, made to wait another hour, and finally released without bail on his promise to 'obey all laws.' The newest law: Kelly's own legislation barring Redtop from holding up a picket sign at the Town Clock any time of the day or night. Redtop's rejoinder: Barring Kelly from hearing his case--dismissing him for prejudice.

While Kelly's court was rewriting the Constitution to facilitate removal of Santa Cruz's less fashionable protesters, Blackbadge Bassett's⁴ bulldogs and Lebensraum Lang's⁵ legmen in blue were rounding up political posters, picket signs, sleeping bags, loaves of bread, and the Town Clock broom.

Robert leapt up to secure his shoes before they were declared evidence of "a criminal mess" by the thieves-in-blue. As usual, Robert reported, the cops had no warrant, no charges, and no receipts for the property taken. Moved by Robert's plea that he be given back his trusty if worn straw broom, the blue-clad scavengers, headed by Officer "Mist and Manacles" Moore (and several unidentified sergeants operating from a distance) returned the prized dustbuster, and rumbled off with their haul.

Three days later on Monday April 29th, Hennig led another "this is not a closet" raid against the Clock, seizing the small law library the demonstrators had assembled, three loaves of bread, the complete works of Shakespeare, Linda the Lark's "Outcasts Downcast!" sign, and virtually everything else there including three sleeping bags. Roused from his "Yes, this Really is an Urban Tribalist Sanity Creation Chamber" sun shelter, Robert received his fifth Public Nuisance ticket and Linda got her first.⁶

The next day after Robert had agreed to banishment from the Land of Clock, the heavy-hearted demonstrator sat across the street with his sign "Banned--Peace Vigil" observing a group of middle-class demonstrators holding up a large blank sign (in apparent mockery of the Vigil protest). This group was left untrammelled by the police, though Linda wondered why officers weren't hauling off their placards for being more than 14" on a side.

4 Variouslly lampooned as Blackjack Bassett, Blackheart Bassett, Blackdog Bassett and Bumbaiter Bassett in past Street Shit Sheets, the Olympian police chief continues to be seen by shrewd observers as the guiding goblin behind his department's anti-homeless policies. Well-spoken, mild-mannered, and low-profile, Bassett's rhetorical skills serve him best when he avoid outbursts of character assassination. [See Bassett Balleyhoo Blasts the Airwaves, p. 4.]

5 Lebensraum Jim Lang, Director of Parks and Recreation, is familiar to Street Shit Sheet readers for the laundry list of petty humiliations he has handed the homeless. Bench-snatching, shower-closing, rigid curfews, and behind-the-scenes lobbying for a streetpeople-free New Order mall are a few of his recent accomplishments.

6 Linda earned her first Public Nuisance ticket this year by rushing to the Clock to save legal papers, petitions, and (!) Street Shit Sheets that Hennig was threatening to seize. Last year she and Jabberwocky Jay got the first PN tickets within memory as Hennig (again!) invoked this archaic device to cut off the Homeless Table Vigil in January 1990.

When the Hobohunter returned after noon to repeat his morning's performance, he confronted Linda the Lark defending Wailin' Wendy's protest sign. When he tried to take it as 'too large', Linda intervened and noted he'd made no move to molest middle class demonstrators holding up a large blank sign (in apparent mockery of the Vigil protest). "They're holding theirs up," said Hennig. "So's she," replied Linda. "She's blocking the sidewalk," fired back Hennig. "So're they," insisted Linda. "Well, you have to be walking around," fumbled Hennig. "They're not," concluded Linda. And the sign got a reprieve.

Future prospects for the vigil were uncertain. On noon Wednesday with all protesters and signs apparently gone (May 1), Barefoot Brad defiantly posted a Peace Vigil sign on the face of the monument--a sign removed within the hour. The previous two nights had seen no sleepers or vigilers at the Clock in the wee hours of morning. Won Ton Dave's reaction ranged from defiance (setting up a chair across Pacific Ave. from the Clock and sitting up Friday night) to despair ("the Vigil is dead"--Tuesday afternoon) to mysticism ("the Vigil must now become a guerrilla action"--Tuesday evening). The robed revolutionary was last seen the next day sporting a "Stop the War Machine" sandwich board and eyeing the Town Clock nostalgically from nearby.

Meanwhile on Sunday afternoon a rump subcommittee of P&R assigned to "investigate and mediate" the Town Clock 'problem' failed to invite the Town Clock protesters, and will apparently try again in the near future. Still unclear was how P&R could shift so radically from refusing to even consider a curfew to passing one 5-2 several weeks later. One source suggested P&R felt pressured by police at the first meeting, but found the "idea of closing hours reasonable" at the second. No one has yet explained why P&R didn't return the issue to City Council as Council requested and Yokoyama promised. Nor is it clear if P&R is subject to internal appeal on the curfew issue. Answers as we receive them!

Others proposed reactivating last year's Vigil for Homeless Rights several feet from Won Ton's new perch as a meeting place for the dispossessed. Still others spoke of moving the vigil to City Hall grounds to see if Parks and Rec would suddenly discover yet another hitherto unknown park to regulate with new 'closing hours.' At press time, malcontents continued to circulate petitions opposing the curfew.

Scattered and battered, but not defeated, the peace/homeless activists asked supporters to call City Council (429-3550), attend the May 14th Public Hearing appealing the nighttime ban, and be ready for the reappearance of the uprooted vigil. For others the question remained: Had Hennig, Kelly, Bassett, and Lang successfully established a protest-free zone at the Town Clock (and anywhere else they chose?) Would Council cowardice or judicial arrogance erase the Constitution after dark downtown? Tune in next issue.

7 So twisted have the terms of the debate become that the timely and pressing question of police abuse at the Clock has been turned on its head: Parks and Rec, the Santa Cruz Urinal (aka the Sentinel), the Somnolent Seven (City Council), and reactionaries everywhere now bitch and moan that half a dozen protesters are creating an economic catastrophe, a health and safety problem, etc.

#####BOOTHEELS ON THE BLACKTOP#####

SIDESTEP THE STRANGULATION OF MADDOG MULLIGAN'S court! That's the advice of Bathrobespierre Robert Norse and other victims of the tutti frutti Traffic Referee's especial brand of lockjaw justice. To move your case to another Santa Cruz court (perhaps that of Commissioner Whiff o' Hope' Watts), leave a signed statement with the court clerks in the basement of the County building. Your statement should include case number and date of next appearance stating: "I swear under penalty of perjury that Traffic Referee John Mulligan is prejudiced. I move that he be disqualified from hearing my case."

Maddog has sought to drag out this process by occasionally demanding that those seeking to escape his fat fines and slambang sentences personally appear before him to present the disqualification motion. But Grinning Ray Grueneich, gutsy Gabriel to the gutter gangrels[®] claims that a written statement passed to one of the three basement windows is sufficient. If they refuse to accept your disqualification statement, ask them to sign and date a statement that you attempted to file the motion, but it was rejected. An ounce of prevention may prevent a month of Community Slavery, bloated payoffs, or even jail.

BLACKBADGE BASSETT BLASTS THE AIRWAVES--on KUSP's Eddie Hudson show several weeks back.[®] The Santa Cruz police chief began by saying that neither he nor his chief sergeant had ever seen police brutality of the L.A. sort, backtracking only when a caller challenged his "all is well here" bullshit. On marijuana: a dangerous intoxicant [but would Jack criminalize alcohol?]. On a police review commission: I don't understand what they want. [Maybe a real response to complaints, Jack? Maybe independent investigations?]

Complaints? Only a handful for something other than 'rudeness,' replied the silver-tongued lawman. Actually, his Dept. got a fistful on just one day--May 29, 1990, when Sgt. Hennig assaulted Morpheus Mike Hobson in front of Union Grove Music. His police department initially refused to accept more than one, but ultimately got over a dozen. There were dozens of complaints made about abusive police behavior at the Homeless Table, to no avail.

The Town Clock Vigil? Bassett repeated lies from Lang and Yokoyama that defecation and 'interference with city workers' justified unheard-of 'hours of operation' at the Clock. The politic police chief never mentioned that no citations have been issued for either of these offenses during the 3-month long vigil.

S Gangrel: Scottish for 'vagrant.' Grueneich shows up at 1:30 PM Tuesday trials in Mulligan's Madhouse (Courtroom F in the basement of the County Building) with some frequency and defends Sleeping Ban victims without charge. He has also been known to visit Commission Watt's Courtroom G for the 10 AM Friday courttrials of scofflaw slumberbums.

Frequently absent from town on legal business, the gangling globetrotter has been known to return early (at his own expense) to defend those charged with 'camping' under the city's unforgiving 'no sleep in Santa Cruz' ordinance 6.36. At your arraignment, plead 'not guilty,' get a court date, and disqualify Maddog Mulligan. Then leave a note on Ray's office door at 763 Chestnut St. with the trial date.

LINDA'S LOGJAM OF LAWLESSNESS: Fans of Linda the Lark Edwards have been having trouble keeping her court dates straight. As a public service, we present the following calender--in future issues we hope to do the same with the redoubtable Won Ton Dave, rascally Redtop Robert, and the whole pack of punchdrunk protesters at the Town Clock.

Linda currently faces a volley of jury trials:

May 6, 1:30 PM, Dept. C--standing in a bicycle lane; the real reason: witnessing police harassment]

May 7 1:30 PM, Dept. C--driving on a suspended license; the real reason: poverty, harassment by Officer Bracher

May 17, 9:30 AM(?) Dept. 1 in Monterey--unlawful assembly for carrying a picket sign outside Ford Ord,

May 28 1:30 PM Dept. F--court trials for year-old camping ticket; real reason: computer indigestion;

May 30 8:30 AM Dept. C.--arraignment on her 'Public Nuisance charge when she will probably be declared illegal-at-the-Clock without charge;

June 4, 1:30 PM Dept. F--court trials for 2 camping tickets at the Clock Peace vigil, 1 'curfew violation,' and 1 bicycle ticket; real reason: the Sleeping Ban, Mulligan as curmudgeon, and Officer 'Cutthroat' Connor's recent anti-bicyclist blitz of tickets downtown.

CELEBRATE FOOD NOT BOMBS' THIRD YEAR OF FREE FOOD AT HAIGHT AND STANYAN



FOOD NOT BOMBS

3145 Geary Boulevard, #12,
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 330-5030

*Come and Dine
They call it a crime
Come and Eat
It's really a treat
Food Not Bombs
Bread Not Bums
The Drums
The Drums*



Monday, May 27, 1991 (Memorial Day)

11:00 AM — meet at Buena Vista Park
Central and Haight
11:30 am — Parade down Haight
12:00 noon — Free Lunch and Party at
Haight and Stanyan

What's Coming Next Time? Who knows? We never follow-up on these taste-tempting tidbits dangled before you as previews of our upcoming issue. Still, we may have: Denny's Dumping the Discontented?, 'Mad' John Telfair's 'on the road' report from the gutters of Reno, NV; Bremerton, WA; and Kingsburg, NJ; P&R meets the Mayor: the Yokoyama Mediation Mission that everyone forgot; and much more!

9 Radio Station KUSP (1080 AM) now has call-in talk shows from 6-8 AM (John Sandridge), 12-1 PM (John Mooth), and 2-4 PM (Eddie Hudson), M-F. Call-in to talk at 478-1080. They'll also provide a schedule of upcoming speakers. One of whom will not be SPAN (Stop Police Abuse Now!), vetoed by Eddie Hudson when we attempted to reply to Bassett's bastinados.

STREET SHEET

**NO CURFEW FOR THE CONSTITUTION AT THE TOWN CLOCK !
SUPPORT THE APPEAL AT CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY NIGHT!
COME TO CITY HALL AT 809 CENTER ST. 7 PM MAY 14th!!**

#90

May 12, 1991

Sunday

free to all donate if you can

"O murderous system of munitions and inhuman rights
that has plundered our pockets and dignity.
O enterprise of crime that calls us criminals,
terrorism that cries we are fearful,
greed that evicts us from the places we ourselves have built,
miserable war-mongery that sentences us to misery and public
exposure as public nuisances to keep a filthy republic clean..."
--lines from *Home* by Jack Hirschman's *The Bottom Line* (1988)

JAYCEE SPRING FAIRE DUSTS HOMELESS PEACE PROTEST TABLE
BRIEF VIGILS AT CLOCK & POST OFFICE MARK TUESDAY CURFEW APPEAL

Town Clock Peace Vigiler Redtop Robert Flory found his humble protest table surrounded by surly security 'volunteers' within fifteen minutes of arrival yesterday afternoon near the County Courthouse. Representing the "No Curfew for the Constitution" subcommittee of H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom), Redtop and Linda the Lark Edwards were offering Spring Fair visitors information about Tuesday's appeal of the Town Clock curfew before the onslaught of harassment.

The two blanket-clad homeless rights activists reported they had begun gathering signatures for their petition opposing the new 1 AM- 8 AM curfew when they were approached by two fair officials and told, 'You're not on our list of booths; pay \$100 or get out.' Linda noted they had set up their small table on the very edge of the fair, near the portapotties, on what appeared to be a public area, and said they offered to move their table even further away, but were told to "go back to the Clock!"¹ Crying "let's have some fun with them," one eager security man who reportedly had to be restrained from a physical assault on the two diminutive tablers. By the time Linda and Redtop retreated, they were nearly surrounded by 8-10 "walkie-talkie" guards, a Parks & Rec ranger, and an SCPD blueshirt.

Later in the afternoon, on a return visit to the green and happy festival, Redtop encountered a walkie-talkie man in a checkered shirt, who subsequently identified himself only as 'Ed.' Looking at Redtop's "Spring Fair Dusts Protest" sign, Ed snarled, "you'd better get that sign out of here or I can make it hard for you." Jaycee workers later sought to 'rationalize' the behavior of their hired thugs by noting that the gang bang of the literature table was prompted 'only by a merchant complaint.' However, a nearby anti-abortion activist, selling items and distributing literature, noted he was paying \$75 to have a booth there and had no problem with a no-fee homeless information table.

Earlier in the day, another strolling leafleteer, "Won Ton" Dave Jacobs was also given the spring rush by "commerce yes!, constitution no!" goons at the fair when he sought to give out flyers in what was presumed to be a public area. Was Won Ton whistling "Springtime for Hitler in Santa Cruz," in his raspy voice as he yielded to the latest extension of the "homeless peace protest" ban? Reports are sketchy.

Back at the Clock, Meandering Mike G., as yet 'unbanned'

1 Redtop noted the woman who gave this helpful advice had apparently not heard the news: Muni Court Czar Kelly's barred him even though the curfew is not yet

from the Town Clock has promised to retain a sometime presence there, calling for an end to Bush's abuses in the Middle East and Bassett's abuses at home. Won Ton Dave with HUFF volunteers is promising to help educate merchants and their customers, who seem to be the prime mover of the current ban on vigiling at the Clock, by setting up daytime protest tables in front of their stores. "Courthouse Coffee" to homeless and other victims of the just-us system in front of the courts from 7 to 9 AM. The morning coffee has the dual function of supporting those harassed by the police locally for such crimes as "public nuisance," "too large a protest sign," "jaywalking," "sitting on the planters," etc. and providing something hot for people on the streets who've spent a restless night dodging police anti-sleep squads.²

Meanwhile back in the world of bureaucrats-in-bloom and free speech bans, the Parks and Recreation Commission's most recent exercise in brown-nosing downtown businessnoids comes up for the Somnolent Seven³ rubberstamp as agenda item 47 at the 7 PM session May 14th. At the debate that sent the curfew to P&R, Councilmembers Catherine Beiers and Scott Kennedy were eloquent dissenters. They did not buy the backdoor bashing maneuver that sent the curfew back to P&R after P&R had rejected it nearly unanimously back in mid-March.

But 5 members of the Council did buy it, Lane and Yokoyama indicating they were only doing so 'to seek solutions,' 'encourage conflict-resolution,' etc. The Council resolution directed P&R to investigate, consider alternatives, and report back to City Council. Instead the bureaucrat-backers did an endrun and passed the first-ever curfew at the most frequent vigiling spot in town. As a parting hypocritical flourish, P&R added a 'mediation/investigation' session [Monday, 5:30 PM, outside Public Works Dept.]--offering to 'discuss' what it had already dictated.

Tuesday's debate on the Redtop Robert's appeal will show whether there is any substance to the Mayor's flowery phrases and whether Beiers and Kennedy will hold their ground. Redtop and Won Ton plan to present several hundred signatures supporting the traditional free speech policy at the Town Clock.

2 Those interested in helping early-morning reprobates can leave a message for Eric at 427-1205. Good samaritans are advised that "Courthouse Coffee" was last done in the fall to support Jabberwocky Jay Green and Paddywagon Pete Pascoe, sentenced to two and one months respectively for "sleeping without a condo." At that time Health Dept. heavies staked out the mini-demonstration and threatened to arrest coffeeservers for violating the ever-lurking Injunction against serving food to the homeless "without a permit" [without official favor, that is]. The bureaucrats never carried out their threat, but be ready for idiocies, & intimidation.

3 Not all of the City Council can be fairly classified as asleep at the wheel. But no Councilmember has spoken out publicly in the last few weeks to oppose this casual trashing of protest rights simply to remove 'eyesore homeless people.' It's up to the citizens themselves to oppose the constitution-shredding activities of paranoid shopkeepers who prefer to dispose of inconvenient sections of the Bill of Rights to 'encourage investment downtown.'